Malmo FF v the Socceroos latest ... Pages 2/3 & 12

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

$1.60

Vol 10 No 366 — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1989

• POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 406, BROADWAY, NSW 2007
• TELEPHONE: (02) 660 2033 • FAX: (02) 692 0649 • TELEX: AA22141

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No NBQ5726

Let's bid for gala events

BY LOU GAUTIER

NEWS that the Super Intercontinental Cup tie between Mechelen of Belgium and Racing Avellaneda of Argentina will be played either in New York or in Tokyo before June 30 prompts me to ask why Australia cannot bid for one of these big special international events.

The above is a challenge match between the winners of the European Super Cup (winners of the Champions' Cup versus winners of the Cup-Winners' Cup) and the holders of the South American Recopa.

Just like the Intercontinental Cup — between the victors of the European Champions' Cup and the winners of the Libertadores Cup — which is now sponsored by the Toyota company and always played in Tokyo in December, the Super Intercontinental Cup is to be an annual event staged in a neutral venue.

Couldn't the Australian Soccer Federation, with the right sponsorship, make a bid to hold it in Australia?

Once the National Soccer League switches to summer, a June date would just be ideal for the staging of such a glamourous event.

The massive coverage of European and Latin American football by SBS-TV have made the leading clubs of both continents household names in Australia.

I am sure the Sydney Football Stadium would be sold out for such a gala occasion.

That is one match fans would not mind paying top dollar to watch.

Most of the expenses occurred in flying the teams to Australia would easily be recovered by the world-wide television rights.

If Tokyo, where Soccer is small potatoes, can fill its 70,000-capacity Olympic Stadium in the midst of the frigid Japanese winter, just imagine the success of an intercontinental clash in Sydney.

Perhaps the new broom policy ASF chairman Ian Brusasco is so vigourously pursuing could sweep such a magnificent promotion — and other one-off FIFA events — Australia's way?

It certainly is worth a try.

After a dangerous incident that saw Sydney Olympic's Marshall Soper concussed a fortnight ago and swallow his tongue in the Apia match, the former international is back with a vengeance. Here he is seen in complete control under Sydney Croatia Wally Savor's challenge before over 8000 enthusiastic fans at the Croatian Sports Centre last Sunday.

Ilija Dimoski faces the music

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE City JUST coach Ilija Dimoski may have only two more weeks to prove his ability in the NSL.

Their 3-1 defeat at Blacktown on Sunday was the club's third loss in succession and club sources have indicated that Dimoski's job is on the line.

One Melbourne JUST official told me that unless the club wins at least two of its next four games Dimoski, who took over just days before the 1989 season opened, would lose his post.

Officially, Dimoski is safe, but with tough games at home against St George and Preston Makedonia and an away fixture at Sydney Croatia in the next three weeks, the coach faces an uphill task to lift his ailing charges.

JUST hasn't won since its opening round clash at home to Melbourne Croatia.

Aside from three league defeats in successive rounds, the club also lost the Buffalo Gold Cup final to South Melbourne Hellas last Wednesday night.

Part-owner and current Socceroo, Oscar Crino, publicly blasted his team-mates two weeks ago when the team lost at home to Apia, but JUST has still failed to fire in its two matches since.

Dimoski, whose son Milan is a first team regular, joined the club on the eve of the 1989 season after a distinguished 300-game playing and 14-year coaching career in Yugoslavia.

He replaced Mircad Fazlagic, who was sacked late last year.

Roos for President's Cup?

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THERE is a distinct possibility that the Socceroos could be whisked off to compete in the President's Cup in South Korea in June.

And then again, South American champions Uruguay could be here at that time, as disclosed exclusively in these columns by our resident expert, Mario Etchart.

Uruguay will be the pea for the job at that time, as they would provide ideal opposition in preparation for the last World Cup qualifiers.

The Australian public's appetite has been whetted for South American visitors by the appearance of giants Argentina and Brazil in the Bicentennial Gold Cup.

The Socceroos are about to face New Zealand and Israel in the second stage of the Cup. Winning that means that they next come up against the victor from Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay for a place in Italy in June next year.

The possibility that Frank Arok and his gallant band could miss out is all but unthinkable, but the Australian Soccer Federation must have contingency plans in place.

Uruguay's terms are $US25000 per game, plus airfares and accomodation. There is no doubt that, with proper promotion, the tour would be well received.

But the back-up situation of having the President's Cup just over the horizon is well worthwhile.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Malmo players to watch

Aaron

Ljung

N. Larsson

Thern

Engqvist

Nilsson

Johnny Fedel, aged 22. Goalkeeper. A youth product and an under-21 international. Has Italian parents but has played all his football in Sweden.

□ □ □

Torbjorn Persson. Age 28, 11 caps. Left-back. A tall full-back with an astute left foot. Was unfortunate to miss most of the action this autumn because of an injury.

Came from Ramlosa in 1979.

□ □ □

Roger Ljung. Aged 22, 7 caps. Stopper/left-back. A stopper for his club, Ljung played at left-back against England in the October 0-0 draw at Wembley.

An excellent header of the ball who seems to be at the start of a long international career. Signed from Lunds BK in 1985.

□ □ □

Per Agren. Aged 26. Stopper. A youth product. One of the few regular first team players who has not represented Sweden at any level.

□ □ □

Stefan Schwarz. Aged 19. Midfield/left-back. A highly promising youngster who has deputised for the injured Persson at left-back.

Originally from Kulladal, Schwarz, whose father is German, also spent some time with Bayer Leverkusen. An under 21 international for Sweden.

□ □ □

Leif Engqvist. Aged 26, 11 caps. Midfield. A tenacious midfield man with shooting power in his boots. Signed from Lund in 1985.

Played in the Seoul Olympics and forms a fine central midfield duo with Thern.

□ □ □

Anders Palmer. Aged 28, 10 caps. Midfield. A skilful ball player but with a tendency for blowing hot and cold.

Has come through the junior ranks and has over 300 first team appearances to his name.

Father Calle was a star for Malmo and Sweden in the 1950s and is now one of Malmo's most famous sportswriters.

□ □ □

Joakim Nilsson. Aged 22, 5 caps. Midfield/attack. A left-sided midfielder or a winger who has forced his way into the national side this past season.

Noted for his strong running and accurate crosses. Was found playing for a small Fram Landskrona club — in the Swedish Fifth Division.

□ □ □

Niklas Larsson. Aged 22. Midfield/attack. One of many talented youngsters pushing for a first team place, Signed from Olympics BK in 1986.

□ □ □

Martin Dahlin. Aged 21, 1 cap. Attack. The season's sensation with 17 league goals plus four in the 7-3 thrashing of Djurgarden.

A fast and powerful striker, who looks likely to join Italy's Fiorentina. Originally with Lunds BK.

□ □ □

Hakan Lindman. Aged 27. Attack. A vastly under-rated centre-forward whose intelligent target man game belies the fact that he has never won a full cap for Sweden.

A attempt to win a contract with Anderlecht also failed. Signed from Karlstads BK in 1986, he has come into his own since the selling of Mats Magnusson to Benfica.

□ □ □

Lasse Larsson. Aged 26, 9 caps. Attack. Sweden's top scorer in 1987 with 19 league goals but has been out through injury for most of the 1988 season.

Began playing with IFK Treleborg. A sharp penalty box opportunist, Larsson also had an unhappy spell in Italy with Atalanta.

□ □ □

Jonas Thern. Aged 21, 16 caps. Midfield.

A talented midfield schemer, who Malmo discovered from a small Division Three club, Varnamo, in 1985.

An excellent passer of the ball with splendid vision, although not always at home in the Prytz-Stromberg dominated midfield of Sweden.

Was sent-off after a scuffle in a match versus Tunisia during the Seoul Olympics. Was on loan at FC Zurich last winter. "The best current player in the Swedish league" — Hodgson.

□ □ □

Palmer

Fedel

Schwarz

Johansson

L. Larsson

Lindman

Malmo FF fully professional soon

BY LOU GAUTIER

MALMO are on the verge of becoming a full-time professional club — the first in lily-white Sweden.

Next season, 22 Malmo players will be allowed to leave their civil jobs and concentrate solely on Soccer.

Besides, in 1987 they launched an ambitious youth scheme called "The Football University", which costs the club some $200,000 a year.

This project enables them to produce their own players, who, hopefully, won't be lured overseas now that Malmo is a pro outfit.

Eighteen months ago the club lost its star forward forward, Mats Magnusson, to Benfica of Portugal and chances are that current striking sensation Martin Dahlin will join Italy's Fiorentina soon.

Since Kjell Rosen was lured to Italy's Torino, Malmo have sold 21 players to European clubs.

Malmo also take great pride in the fact they were the first Swedes to reach a major international club final when they lost 1-0 to Nottingham Forest in the Champions' Cup final in 1979.

This season they were eliminated by Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup after losing 1-0 at home and drawing 1-1 at San Siro Stadium.

MARTIN DAHLIN

While IFK Goteborg, Malmo's great local rivals, have done better in Europe in the last decade, Malmo now hold the upper hand domestically.

They have won the league four times on the trot, although they've only twice been lucky in the play-off series which decides the eventual champions.

Malmo FF are 79 years old and were promoted to the Swedish First Division in 1936.

They boast the finest record of any Swedish club, with 16 league titles and 13 cup victories.

Season 1988 marked Malmo's 52nd successive season in Division I — a record shared by only a handful of European clubs.

FINAL 1988 SWEDISH TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmö FF	22	15	2	5	45	26	32
IFK Göteborg	22	13	5	4	37	18	31
Djurgaarden	22	9	9	4	38	22	27
Orgryte G	22	9	5	8	27	23	23
Sundsvall IK	22	8	7	7	26	26	23
Nörrkoping	22	9	3	10	39	29	21
Ik Brage	22	7	7	8	23	30	21
GAIS G	22	8	4	10	25	31	20
AIK	22	6	6	10	19	30	18
Västra Fr	22	6	6	10	24	34	18
Öster Växjö	22	4	9	9	20	33	17
Hammarby	22	5	3	14	19	40	13

PLAY-OFFS

SEMI-FINAL: Djurgaarden-IFK Göteborg 2-0, 0-1, Örgryte-Malmö FF 0-1 1-2, FINAL: Djurgaarden-Malmö 0-0, 3-7.

PLAYERS' NUMBERS

THE Malmo FF players will wear the following numbers in Australia:

1 JONNY FEDEL
2 PER AGREN
3 TORBJORN PERSSON
4 ROGER LJUNG
5 JEAN-P VONDERBERG
6 NICLAS LARSSON
7 JONAS THERN
8 LEIF ENGQVIST
9 JOAKIM NILSSON
10 MARTIN DAHLIN
11 HAKAN LINDMAN
12 LARS LARSSON
13 HANS JOHANSSON
14 STEFAN SCHWARZ
15 ANDERS PALMER
16 PETRI JAKKONEN
17 JOHN ALLEN
18 PETER JONSSON
19 ANDERS JONSSON
20 MARCUS EKHEIM
21 CASPER PAUCHSTADT

WINFIELD BOWS OUT OF SPONSORSHIP

AFTER lengthy discussions with Winfield, the Australian Soccer Federation has obtained a release from its contract with the company for sponsorship and naming rights of the national team.

This will enable the ASF to enter into a new arrangement with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

Winfield's association with Soccer generally over 20 years, and more recently with the Winfield Socceroos, has been instrumental in elevating the status and public image of the game in Australia.

While Winfield, understandably, was reluctant to terminate the Socceroo association due to be completed in 1990, the company has acceded to the wishes of the ASF, which believes the new sponsorship is in the best interests of the game.

"Rothmans in their long association with various sports have demonstrated their willingness to act in the best interest of sport. I am understandably grateful for their decision to release the Australian Soccer Federation from its agreement", ASF chairman Ian Brusasco said.

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P.O. BOX 406 BROADWAY NSW 2007
★ Tel: (02) 660 2033 ★ FAX: (02) 692 0649
★ TELEX: AA22141
Published every Wednesday by Foreign Language Publications Pty. Ltd.
(A company incorporated in New South Wales)
1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037.

DISTRIBUTION:
NSW/ACT: Mirror Australian Telegraph Publications, 2 Holt St, Sydney 2010. Tel (02) 288 3000. **VICTORIA:** Southdown Press, 32 Walsh St, West Melbourne 3003. Tel (03) 320 7000. **QUEENSLAND:** Queensland Newspapers, Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006. Tel: (07) 252 6011. **SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Advertiser Newspapers Ltd Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218 9329. **WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** West Australian Newspapers Ltd, 125 St George Terrace, Perth 6000. Tel (09) 321 0161.

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*Recommended and maximum price only.

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—Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is Thursday morning of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date. Terms and conditions are as set out on the current Rate Card.

Australia vs Malmo FF

Vs

Swedes to test us at Olympic Park

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE Socceroos' 1989 World Cup campaign kicks off on Friday at Melbourne's Olympic Park when they take on the current Swedish champions, Malmo FF, at 8pm.

Just like last year, when IFK Goteborg rung up the curtain, a Swedish club side has been chosen to get the ball rolling this season to act as sparring partner to the national team on the eve of a major international event.

In 1988, the Swedes helped Australia get ready for the Olympic qualifiers against New Zealand and Israel. Now their assistance is gratefully accepted in Australia's quest against the same opponents as the Socceroos set sail for Italy 1990.

Malmo, affectionately known by the initials MFF to their fans in Sweden's third largest city, are ideal opponents.

They are one of the better clubs in Europe, have a fair sprinkling of current A internationals

Roy Hodgson,

and play a brand of football that won't only please spectators, but also test the Aussies while enabling Socceroo coach Frank Arok to "experiment" in certain key positions.

Malmo played themselves into form by competing in a four-team tournament in Hong Kong on their way to Australia and will be the better for it in Melbourne on Friday as their season ended three and a half months ago.

Although this is the midst of their close-season, they have enough talent to make it tough for the restructured Australian team.

Let's hope the notoriously fickle Melbourne fans get right beind the Socceroos. They need all the support they can get, even if the game is only classified as a "friendly".

The national team will have a decidedly new-look about it, what with the absence of several 1988 regulars.

Captain Charlie Yankos is in Greece with PAOK Salonika; Frank Farina and Vlado Bozinovski are with Belgium's FC Brugge, and Paul Wade and Garry McDowall have been sidelined for some time through injury.

Other players, like Mike Petersen and Graham Jennings, have only just resumed after also sustaining injuries...and the litany goes on.

Undaunted, Frank Arok has been putting his Sydney and Melbourne-based train-on squads through their paces with the assistance of John Margarites and Berti Mariani.

Though naturally concerned over the absence of so many stalwarts against the Swedes, he remains confident Australia will field a strong, winning team when the chips are down in March and in April.

Arok is happy at the prospect of playing Malmo. Under their English coach, Roy Hogdson, they have adapted an "all purpose", no-nonsense style which makes them ideal sparring partners.

Of course, he would even be happier had the Australian Soccer Fderation been able to arrange two or three more games before the World Cup qualifiers, but he'll have to make do with what he got — and that means Malmo.

Australia's build-up pales in comparison to that of the Israelis, who will have played some half a dozen games against top opponents in the three-month lead-up to their opener against New Zealand on March 5.

PAUL WADE (right): fighting to get fit for Australia's World Cup opener.

SOCCEROOS See page 12

English coach is quiet achiever

AFTER steering Malmo FF to their 14th Swedish league championship, Roy Hodgson is emerging as one of England's top coaching exports to the continent.

Virtually unknown in England, but already an authority in Sweden, Hodgson has made important adjustments to his coaching philosophy while still remaining essentially British.

His qualities as a coach are almost too familiar in the Football League but the trick is how to make them work in a different environment.

Every good British coach worth his salt is a great motivator of players. So is Roy.

But he outscores most of his compatriots in his tactical adaptability. It is a different ball game once you cross the British channel.

When watching Malmo play, it is easy to spot that they are being coached by a Briton.

Yet they don't play like a typical British side, if you can notice the difference.

Hodgson has brought all the British virtues across the North Sea and then matched them with Swedish mentality.

The end-product is very efficient, to say the least. Hodgson has sometimes been criticised for not allowing Malmo players to "express themselves freely" or that he is binding their natural instincts to a pattern.

Aged 41, he is now one of the most respected coaches in Sweden.

Hodgson had a modest playing career with Crystal Palace. He also worked in South Africa before taking up coaching in Sweden, leading Halmstad to league titles in 1976 and 1979.

After a short spell back in England with Bristol City, mainly as an assistant to one-time Malmo boss Bob Houghton, Hodgson led Orebro SK to a Second Division title in 1984.

Being appointed as the manager-coach of Malmo, he has guided the club to four consecutive 'Allsvenskan' (All-Swedish) victories and to two play-off wins in 1986 and 1988.

Malmo were also Swedish Cup winners under Hodgson in 1985-86.

Australian Soccer Federation

Presents

AUSTRALIA vs MALMO FF (SWEDISH CHAMPIONS)

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

OLYMPIC PARK (Melbourne) KICK-OFF 8PM

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

PARRAMATTA STADIUM (Sydney) KICK-OFF 8PM

SYDNEY EARLY GAME

U/13 YOUTH LEAGUE

ST GEORGE ASSN vs SUTHERLAND ASSN 6.15PM

Eight games in 28 days

Gray demolishes weary Hellas side

BY JOHN MANGAN

MARCONI came, saw and conquered a battle-weary South Melbourne Hellas 1-0 at Middle Park on Sunday.

The defeat marked the end of a 25 day spell in which Hellas had played eight games, won the 1989 Buffalo Cup, and been awarded the 1988 Dockerty Cup by default.

Now Hellas boss Brian Garvey has given his players a rest from training until tomorrow night.

IAN GRAY

But all credit to league champions Marconi, who opened the game at a sizzling pace despite the draining heat, and capably established a grip on the midfield.

Nevertheless, for all their efforts in the first half, they could not get the ball in the back of the net.

Zlatko Nastevski, David Lowe and Gerry Gomez all had their chances to shoot them into the lead.

South Melbourne Hellas' best opportunity of the game came late in the half when Paul Trimboli won the ball in the middle of the park and drove a lovely pass forward into the path of Damian Mori.

Mori had the defence beaten but by the time he had rounded goalkeeper Bob Catlin the cavalry had arrived and he was dispossessed.

Garvey confessed that Hellas was lucky to lose by only one goal, but praised the efforts of defender Bobby Russell and goalkeeper Bruce Maclaren.

Maclaren pulled off the save of the match in the 57th minute, when Fred de Jong latched onto a Lowe cross but the young keeper deflected the shot with his legs.

Marconi finally broke through in the 78th minute, when Ian Gray, who is carrying a muscle strain, struck a remarkable long range shot from outside the box to sink South Melbourne Hellas' hopes of a draw.

The champions' coach, Berti Mariani, was not concerned by his team's failure to increase its winning margin, but was satisfied that chances were being created.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Melbourne Croatia fights back

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MELBOURNE CROATIA, after finding themselves down two goals after only 16 minutes, fought back gallantly to pull off a 2-2 draw against St George at the St George Stadium last Friday night.

Croatia's hero was the NSL's leading goalscorer, Ivan Kelic, who knocked in both of his team's goals to salvage a most valuable point for the Victorians.

Melbourne Croatia's back-four in the first 30 minutes were all at sea as sweeper Alan Davidson vainly tried to organise a defence which could not cope with Saints' very mobile strike-trio of Zoran Ilic, Scott Ollerenshaw and Matthew Bingley.

The three young strikers repeatedly executed switch-plays that ripped Croatia's defence to pieces.

Saints' first goal was a penalty in the 12th minute when goalkeeper Jeff Olver was left with no choice but to foul Ollerenshaw in the box.

Ollerenshaw celebrated his 20th birthday by easily scoring from the penalty spot.

Four minutes later, Saints made it 2-0 when a rocketing 20-metre free-kick by Andy Koczka was only parried by Olver. Bingley zipped in to collect the rebound and nail the target from only six metres out.

Melbourne Croatia showed character in the 18th minute to score through Kelic on the left from a very acute angle, following good lead-up work by black striker, Francis Awaritefe.

Awaritefe, with his explosive acceleration and most deceptive sidestep, will prove to be a sensation in this season's NSL. The black flyer repeatedly cut through the St George lines with elegant ease.

In the 26th minute, Awaritefe streaked away down the left flank, effortlessly slicing through David Ratcliffe and Alex Lampropoulos to whack in a flat cross into the St George six-yard box. Kelic raced in and dragged the ball over the goal-line for the equaliser.

The Victorians almost pulled off a victory with only eight minutes left on the clock when Awaritefe again burst clear down the left to whip in a perfect cross into the box.

Branko Milosevic met the cross to volley from point-blank range, only to see the St George goalkeeper, Mike Gibson, fully stretched to his left pull off a spectacular save.

Best for the Saints were Ollerenshaw, Bingley and Andy Koczka, whilst Croatia was best served by Awaritefe, Kelic and Davidson.

ST GEORGE: Gibson, Lampropoulos, Ratcliffe, O'Shea, Koczka, Grbevski, Moffatt, Pottier, Ilic (Krslovic 65), Ollerenshaw, Bingley.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Olver, Opasinis, Cannell, Davidson, Donnelly, Biskic (Duzel 68), Valentic, Milosevic, Caleta, Awaritefe, Kelic.

Referee: R. Lorenc. Crowd: 2691.

Alan Davidson in action for Australia against Juventus of Italy.

West End. Beer at its best.

National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Croatia	5	3	1	1	15	9	7
Apia Leichhardt	5	3	1	1	8	4	7
Marconi	5	3	1	1	8	4	7
Sydney Croatia	5	3	1	1	4	1	7
St George	5	3	1	1	7	5	7
Preston Makedonia	5	3	0	2	6	5	6
Sydney Olympic	5	2	1	2	6	3	5
Wollongong City	5	2	1	2	5	4	5
South Melbourne	5	2	0	3	6	5	4
Sunshine GC	5	2	0	3	6	7	4
Blacktown City	5	2	0	3	6	14	4
Melbourne City JUST	5	1	1	3	6	8	3
Adelaide City	5	1	0	4	4	7	2
Heidelberg	5	1	0	4	3	14	2

Results

ST GEORGE 2 (S. Ollerenshaw, M. Bingley) MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (I. Kelic 2) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2691.
APIA LEICHHARDT 3 (J. Kosmina 2, R. Brown) HEIDELBERG 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1125.
ADELAIDE CITY 2 (J. Mullen, L. Vial) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 at Chaplin Reserve. Crowd: 2000.
BLACKTOWN CITY 3 (L. McKinna, G. Sterrey, Z. Odzarkov) MELBOURNE CITY JUST 1 (B. Lazopoulos) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 1150.
SYDNEY CROATIA 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 8009.
MARCONI 1 (I. Gray) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 at Middle Park. Crowd: 4000.
PRESTON 1 (R. Markovac) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Olympic Park. Crowd: 2761.

Top Scorers

IVAN KELIC	Melbourne Croatia	8
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	St George	4
MATT BINGLEY	St George	3
MILAN DIMOSKI	Melbourne C JUST	3
JOHN KOSMINA	Apia Leichhardt	3
DAMIAN MORI	South Melbourne	3
WARREN SPINK	Preston Makedonia	3

Crowds

ROUND 5: 21,736
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,105

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (5 ROUNDS): 115,687

TWENTY YEARS AGO

□ RAY RICHARDS, a new signing from Latrobe (Queensland), made his debut for Sydney Croatia in their Ampol Cup match against South Coast United.

☆☆☆

□ The Australian Federation scotched rumours that national team coach Joe "Uncle" Vlasits would be replaced by Prague supremo JOE VENGLOS (now coach of the Czechoslovak national team — Ed).

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"Kossie" back in goal heaven

BY LOU GAUTIER

JOHN Kosmina and Rod Brown combined with deadly effectiveness to power Apia Leichhardt to an easy 3-0 victory over hapless Heidelberg at Lambert Park last Saturday.

PEDRO RICOY

They scored the three goals between them in a devastating 10-minute spell midway through the first half.

Kosmina proved he has lost none of his uncanny flair for goals by opening the scoring in the 27th minute with a well-executed goal from a head pass from Brown, who returned the compliment three minutes later when it was his turn to latch on to a Kosmina header for Apia's second goal.

vincing, speculative 25-metre shot glanced off the upright.

"Kossie" found the net again when he pounced on Pedro Ricoy's 37th minute freekick and beat veteran goalkeeper "Yakka" Banovic with low angled drive.

Apia came close on two other occasions when the woodwork saved the Victorians.

The post also came to Apia's rescue in the 32nd minute when Phil Stubbins' not too con-

That was just about the only time Tony Pezzano was in any sort of danger.

The pace slackened considerably after the interval as the humidity took its toll on the players.

Heidelberg fielded a motley crew of largely non-descript players who, if curent form is any indication, will find it difficult to survive at this level.

Leichhardt, despite the absence of suspended Alex Bundalo and Mirko Radosavljevic, were the vastly superior team.

Kosmina and Brown have developed a good understanding with Ricoy, and mobile young Brian Ellem is not without talent.

It was hard to single out any player in an outclassed Heidelberg side.

JOHN KOSMINA

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano, Webber (Consentino 82), M. Brown, O'Connor, D. Stewart, Mason, Hagan (Murray 85), Ellem, R. Brown, Kosmina, Ricoy.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic, Bordignon, Douglas, Lucchesi, Ousalkis, J. Stewart, Burgess, Stubbins, Theodosopoulos (Koutsoulis 45), Kanesoulis, Raynes (Alagiozidis 75).

Referee: J. Reeves. Crowd: 1125.

Matic's moans

BY PETER DESIRA

ADELAIDE City gave Sunshine George Cross a pasting but coach Zoran Matic, fresh from the 2-0 victory, left Chaplin Reserve moaning that his team is still carrying passengers.

And he went as far as naming Steve Maxwell, saying: "He is one of the fittest in the side but he is still on a mental holiday."

Matic welcomed the two points but added a dig at George Cross and is hoping that in future his team will get more protection from referees.

"I am happy with the two points but George Cross were looking for a fight more than a game. If my side deserved two bookings (Lenny Vial and Joe Mullen), they should have had eight!

"But I'm happy as long as we don't have Adelaide referees in charge of games involving Adelaide City because South Australian referees try to show their impartiality by giving penalties against us every time one of my players just touches an opponent."

Despite Matic's broadside, referee John Santa Isabel should be well pleased with his first-ever NSL game and if his performance is any indication, the league has found an excellent referee.

Santa Isabel took firm control of a game that never rose above the mediocre, and should take comfort from the fact that none of the abuse that flowed from the terraces was directed at him.

Striker Paul Lewis earned the dubious honour of bearing the brunt of the abuse and it got to him to the extent that he turned around to the terraces and, tugging his shirt, indicated to the supporters they could always put the pressure on the bench to get him substituted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Big Italian Derby

MARCONI and Apia, who clash this Saturday night at Marconi Stadium, find themselves in the happy situation of each having a full squad available.

Marconi v Apia battles have traditionally been torrid affairs. Rivalry reaches fever pitch due to the fact both clubs have strong Italian backing.

Club Marconi has organised a huge free sausage sizzle for all attending fans, generously provided by MELOSI FOODS, one of the club's sponsors.

For the first time in many years, both clubs are locked in on equal points at the top of the ladder with seven points apiece.

Apia, who during the pre-season looked like being a spent force after a mass exodus of players, have made a bigger comeback than Lazarus.

For Saturday's clash, Apia coach Michael Urukalo will have Alex Bundalo and Mirko Radosavljevic back from serving suspensions, plus the expected arrival from England later this week, of Bath City defender, Bruce Halliday.

Apia could also have a new signing in Avala midfielder Milan Blagojevic whose transfer fee was reduced from $25,000 to $12,500 last week before being upped again to $25,000.

Marconi and Apia both had solid victories against Victorian sides last weekend, especially Apia for whom former World Cup skipper, John Kosmina, was in excellent form, bagging a brace of goals against Heidelberg.

JOHN ECONOMOS

MARCONI vs APIA LEICHHARDT

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How did Olympic miss out?

BY KEITH GILMOUR

SYDNEY OLYMPIC coach Eddie Thomson was left wondering whether he had run over the proverbial Chinaman after the 0-0 draw with Sydney Croatia.

Playing at the Croatian Sports Centre before the season's best crowd to date of 8009, Olympic were foiled by a Croatia defence that saw goalkeeper Tony Franken in remarkable form and Wally Savor clearing a certain goal off the line.

Olympic were the more dangerous in a scoreless first half, and on top of that they piled on the pressure immediately after the resumption.

At that stage Thomson had his wingers, the remarkable Mike McGarry and the quietly dangerous Alistair Edwards, out near the touchline to draw the defence and make room for some rapier-like Marshall Sopes raids through the middle.

Soper, Robert Ironside and McGarry all responded to the opportunities created.

Ironside all but scored from an Edwards corner in the 48th minute, but his power-laden header struck the bar.

Peter Raskopoulos looking taunt, trim and terrific, drilled in a dangerous 30-metre shot, but Franken again was equal to the task.

Only the level-headed Wally Savor himself would have a clue how he managed his clearance from under the posts in the 76th minute after Ironside had headed in from a McGarry corner.

BACK ROW L to R: Marshall Soper, Dave Barrett, John Koch, Tony Dakos, Peter Raskopoulos, Clint Gosling, Abbas Saad.
FRONT: Tom Pontidas, Grant Lee, Andrew Bernal, Robert Ironside, Michael McGarry, Jason Polak.

— Photo: Carmelo Bazzano

After that came a Soper header which hit the post.

With Alan Hunter providing some great through-balls and Graham Arnold slaving away, Croatia tried to test their opponents all the way in the first half.

But with Sean Ingham unable to put the final touches on his chances, Croatia found the going tough.

On the personal level, Graham Jennings made a good return after his hamstring injury, and had no after-effects immediately following the game.

Best for Olympic were Tony Dakos, Ironside, Pontidas, Soper, McGarry and Jason Polak, with Franken, Hunter and Arnold starring for a Croatia that needs some midfield stiffening.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson has found opposition goalkeepers to be the stumbling blocks.

Mike Gibson had shut them out the previous week for St George, and Apia's Tony Pezzano just before that.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Savor, Jennings, Hunter, Rozic, Clinch (Petrovic 70), Slater, Jones, Arnold, Foster, Ingham.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Hooker, Koch, Dakos, Ironside, Pontidas, Soper, Raskopoulos, Edwards, McGarry, Polak.

Referee: C.Bambridge. **Crowd** 8009.

Preston unimpressive

BY GREG BLAKE

PRESTON Makedonia scored the least most convincing victory of its recent three-game winning run when it downed Wollongong City 1-0 in searing 35-degree heat at Olympic Park last Sunday.

Wollongong outplayed Makedonia for long periods after half-time, but failed to recover from a Robbie Markovac goal in the 51st minute.

Whilst Makedonia got the result it desired, its supporters reacted with boos and cat-calls for the Preston coaching crew when prize recruit John Markovski was substituted with 15 minutes left to play.

The crowd response was just as vocal at full-time when the victorious Preston team left the pitch and it was clear neither they nor Markovski himself were pleased with the decision.

"We consider next week's game against Sydney Olympic to be our match of the year, and we decided to save him for that," an anxious team manager John Gloufchev explained after the game.

"I clarified the situation to him (Markovski) and he accepted it."

If Makedonia supporters were unhappy in victory, the Wollongong contingent was downright shattered.

In the Wolves' change rooms, coach John Fleming stalked about like a caged lion as he tried to analyse his club's downfall in a match it could easily have won.

"There was only one team in it for 90 minutes," he told the waiting press.

The Wolves, with transfer-listed Danny Crainie in super-form as he spearheaded an otherwise insipid attack, wasted opportunities to convert, with the best chance coming when Pat Brodnik clipped a post in the 53rd minute.

Two minutes earlier, Makedonia, which had held its own until then without dominating, had taken the decisive lead.

Substitute George Petrov crossed from the right to where Markovski's shot speared through a wall of players before bobbing into Markovac's path and he struck truly from close range.

PRESTON: Trajanides, Roodhosue, Jolevski, Jackson, Piculovski, Z. Tacevski, Zinni, I. Tacevski (Petrov 24), Spink, Markovski (Runje 75), Markovac.

WOLLONGONG: Young, Skeen, Hollifield, Vilestra, Kotamanidis, Morlando, Stevanovski (Giraldi 79), Bonetig, Easthorpe, Brodnik, Crainie.

Referee: D. Voutsidis. **Crowd:** 2761.

MELBOURNE CITY: Back, left to right — Illija Dimoski coach, Zoran Nikitovic, Rade Barjaktarevic, Vlade Tortevski, Oscar Crino, Dragic Deankovic, Vasco Mitrevski.
Front: Joe Palatsides, Milan Dimoski, Gary van Egmond, Ernie Tapai, Luciano Fabrizio, Mehmet Durakovic, Bill Lazopoulos.

BLACKTOWN BACK FROM THE DEAD

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

BLACKTOWN City made a gutsy recovery from the previous week's rout by Melbourne Croatia to defeat JUST 3-1 at the Gabbie last Sunday.

Blacktown were good value for their win which was most deserved and bore no discussing.

Demons coach Les Scheinflug commented: "We still need a lot of work, but it was a very brave effort to come back a week after conceding six goals."

City took the lead in the 14th minute when Zarko Odzarkov collected the ball in the centre of the field and passed it to Glenn Sterrey, whose superb cross found Lawrie McKinna who headed it past Zoran Nikitovic despite a lunge by two Melbourne defenders.

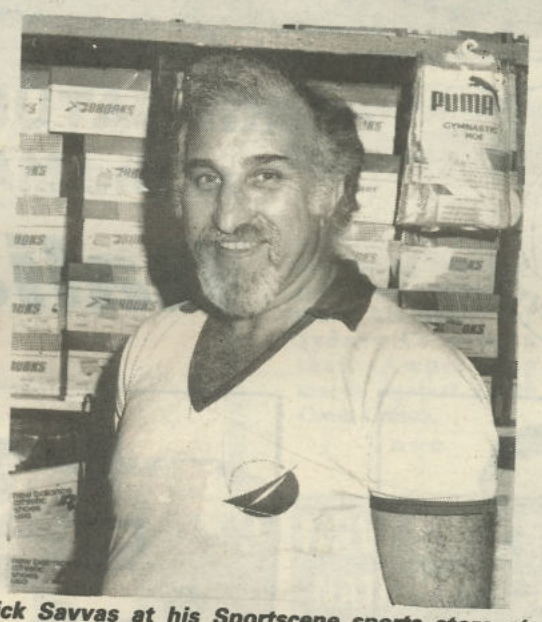
Although the Demons had more chances, the score remained unchanged until half-time.

Melbourne City JUST only came close twice, through Ken Murphy and Oscar Crino, but they did manage to grab an equaliser five minutes after the break.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Spectacular Sportscene sale at Leichhardt

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Nick Savvas at his Sportscene sports store at Leichhardt Market Place.

NICK SAVVAS, popular owner of the Sportscene sports store in Sydney's Leichhardt Market Place, is preparing to launch a huge sale of Soccer boots and balls.

"This outstanding sale starts next Monday February 20 and continues through to March 4 and will involve stock worth well over $100,000," Mr Savvas told ASW last night.

As well the thousands of pairs of soccer boots that will be on offer, goalkeeping gloves and hundreds of Soccer balls will also be offered at most attractive prices.

Mr Savvas was team manager of the old Western Suburbs Soccer Club which was eventually taken over by Apia.

A keen fisherman and specialist diver, Mr Savvas has been in the sports store business for well over 15 years.

"The concept of this Soccer Boot Sale has the full backing of all the major Soccer boot wholesalers. We will be offering fabulous prices," he promised.

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REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

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Address material to ASW, P.O. Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Jason Kearton — No 3 at Everton

Canberra Coaching identity Steve Darby steps off at Everton's training ground to interview former Brisbane Lions sensation, Jason Kearton.

JASON KEARTON makes a tremendous block for Brisbane Lions.

TO be six foot tall, blonde, Australian and with the name Jason, you will certainly be flavour of the month in Liverpool. Jason Kearton may not be a Jason Donovan of Neighbours fame, which is sweeping England at the moment, or even know who Kylie Minogue is, but he is certainly becoming well-known in Liverpool.

I met Jason, the ex-Brisbane Lions and Queensland goalkeeper, after a hard specialist goalkeeping session at Bellfield, the training *ground of Everton Foot*ball Club.

DARBY: You had a rapid rise to fame in Australia. What representative honours at junior level did you achieve?

KEARTON: I made the Queensland Schoolboys side but never the State side, though I played in the full Queensland team.

DARBY: Do you feel that you missed out on the National Youth team due to your age?

KEARTON: I missed qualification for the 1989 Youth team by about six days, therefore I was very young for the 1987 Youth team and probably didn't deserve a place.

(The National team is selected on two-year blocks to fit into FIFA qualification rules. To make the 1989 side you had to be born on or after 1/8/69).

DARBY: Do you have ambitions to play for Australia at senior level?

KEARTON: Most definitely, that is my ultimate aim. I'm contracted here till the end of 1990 and I'll take it from post-1990.

DARBY: Who do you see as your opposition?

KEARTON: Well, Jeff Olver is at the moment, but I rate Tony Franken highly, and he's younger.

DARBY: Could you describe your daily/weekly routine as a professional?

KEARTON: It varies as to whether we have a mid-week match for the reserves. I've played six reserves games and I'm the regular A team goalkeeper at the moment.

DARBY: So you are technically the number 3 keeper at Everton behind Southall and Stowell?

KEARTON: Yes, but I rate Southall as the best in the world at the moment. He is very fit and works very hard in training and has excellent concentration.

My weekly routine, however, is to report for training for a 10.30am start and we finish at 1pm. Occasionally we come back in the afternoon if we've lost a game.

- Monday is a big game: 1st versus reserves
- Tuesday is ball work and fitness
- Wednesday is an easy day or a match
- Thursday is goalkeeper training with Jim Barron
- Friday is an easy day
- Weekend we play

Overall it's a great club and I really enjoy it here.

DARBY: What advice would you give any young Aussie wanting to come here?

KEARTON: First, make sure that you have a British qualification, but also aim to play in the National League first, so that you can have experience playing with seniors.

It's a waste of time coming here if you are under the age of 18 because there is such massive competition, and it's a big air fare outlay *to gamble on.* The National League is on par with English reserve team standard.

DARBY: Who has helped you in your career?

KEARTON: Martin Coe and Gordon Arrowsmith at Brisbane.

DARBY: Any messages for anybody at home?

KEARTON: Yes, I'll be home for a holiday in May, as I'm freezing here at the moment. Regards to my parents and mates at Brisbane.

DARBY: Jason was about to give a special mention to his girl friend, but three young fellow pros decided that they would make the most of it, so the message went untold, but expensive phone bills are apparently common!

Whether you play football in Brisbane, Hobart or Liverpool, footballers are always the same and no doubt Jason will take some "stick" for this article.

However, all praise to the young lad for having the courage to put his ability on the line in a tough part of the world and let's hope he has a very successful career and boosts the Australian image in England.

Britain should know we can export more than just soap opera stars!

— Steve Darby

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JOSEPH PALATSIDES (Melbourne JUST)

PLAYER PROFILE

NAME: Joseph Palatsides
BIRTH DATE: Malvern, Vic. 2/7/65
HEIGHT: 1.83m & 75kg
MARRIED: No, but looking
HOME: Ashwood, Vic
CAR: Mazda 626 Coupe (with electric sunroof)
NICKNAME: "Pala"
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Juventus, Port Melbourne
OCCUPATION: Advertising manager
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Paul Wade (Sth Melbourne) and Charlie Egan (Juve)
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis, cricket and golf
FAVOURITE GROUND: Olympic Park
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Bali
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Top 40
FAVOURITE POSITION: Missionary or centre-forward
ACTOR/ESS: Tom Cruise/John Kanesoulis
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Top Gun
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Who's The Boss, & Get Smart
FAVOURITE DISH: Chicken souvlaki
FAVOURITE DRINK: Orange mineral water
LIKES: Scoring goals, winning and naked women in spa baths
DISLIKES: Injuries
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Played 15 minutes for Australia
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Played for Juventus against Roma in Italy
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Getting relegated
WORST INJURY: Groin (6 games out)
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Kenny Murphy
HARDEST OPPONENT: George Hannah (Melbourne Croatia)
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYERS: Mike Petersen, Oscar Crino, Jim Patikas and Maradona
BOOT TYPE: Diadora
AMBITIONS FOR '89: To be successful with JUST
LONG-TERM AMBITIONS: To go as far in football as my ability will allow and to be filthy, stinking rich.

Palatsides set to fire

BY GREG BLAKE

WHEN Brunswick Juventus crashed out of the NSL last season, the careers of several established National League stars were put on hold.

For tried and true champions, setting themselves up for the future wasn't too difficult.

But for others, like new JUST loan signing Joe Palatsides, it was a time of great concern.

Palatsides, by his own admission, has had only one truly consistent season — in 1988, when he netted 11 NSL goals for a struggling side and managed a brief look-in on the Socceroo squad.

If Juve's relegation was one blow, having to leave the club to keep his career on track was also a wrench.

"Over the years they (Juventus) treated me well and I made lots of friends there," he says.

Palatsides, who won a champions' medal with Juve in 1985, believes the club will bounce back quickly.

"It is the biggest club within the Italian community in Melbourne and Juventus shouldn't be where it is", he told ASW.

"Last year they recruited well, but things just didn't click. However, I'm certain they'll come back in one go.

"If they do, I guess I'd like to go back but, then again, if I do well at JUST, I'll be caught between the two clubs."

Palatsides, who almost first went to South Melbourne Hellas, is impressed by his new club — even though the relationship mightn't be a long one.

The one-year loan negotiated by JUST and Juventus means he's a Juventus player should that club return to the NSL in 12 months' time.

"I've really landed on my feet at JUST", he says.

"The club is top-class and is going about things the right way.

"Now its up to me to do well for them."

And that's something he's extra-keen to do if he is to maintain his reputation as one of the real up-and-comers of the NSL.

"After last year it's going to be hard to come up again and do as well all over again", he explained.

BELGIUM-BOUND BATTEN IS IDLE

ANOTHER Australian will be playing First Division professional football in Belgium soon — David Batten.

David who?, you may well ask, but the fact is that the 24-year-old striker has so impressed Lokeren that they've asked him to join them in July.

Batten, who played for Uruguay Penrith, in the NSW State League last season, trialled with Lokeren last month after touring the UK with the Sydney University team.

He would have been signed on the spot, but the deadline on Belgian transfers had passed, so he was asked to join when training resumes for season 1989-1990.

The interest expressed by Lokeren in Batten is quite a feather in the player's cap because this is the same club with which Socceroos Ernie Tapai and Warren Spink tried out last November.

Batten, who also trialled with Holland's Alkmaar, has one problem: since his return to Australia, no-one believes his good fortune!

But it's true: he has sufficiently impressed a pro team in one of Europe's most competitive leagues to have been offered a contract.

Another headache for David is securing a local club until he sets off for Belgium past mid-season.

Surely, there has to be a club out there who can use a player on the threshold of a professional career in Europe.

If you call ASW, we'll be happy to pass on his phone number.

— LOU GAUTIER

SPECIAL *FREE* CHILDREN'S TICKET
SOCCEROOS — MALMO GAME
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PARRAMATTA STADIUM
See this issue of ASW

NSW Pre-Season Challenge Cup

with **ALEX VESIC**

Woodhouse to the rescue!

GREG Woodhouse performed brilliantly during the second half at Austral Park but could not prevent Avala going down 1-0 to Newcastle Austral last Saturday afternoon.

The Avala keeper made numerous saves. He was at full stretch to deny Doug Elphick, then raced out to dive at the feet of Wayne Bailey to block what looked like a certain goal.

He was on the spot to save from Holden and Elphick in the closing stages of the match, but could do little to stop a shot by Andrew Tonks after 62 minutes from a cross which eluded Elphick and Holden.

Avala had the upper hand in the opening stanza and looked set to register its first win in the Federation Challenge Cup but failed to convert a few good openings.

As half-time neared, Avala appeared to lose much of its early fire and the tables turned during the second half.

Despite playing without star players Tredinnick, Cummins, Porter and Boogard as well as Kevin Shell, its latest import from Berwick Rangers, Newcastle managed to take both points against a side from Cabramatta that looks way off its full potential and appears to be going through a settling-in period.

Tony Henderson, Avala's centre-back and coach for the 1989 season, was critical of the performance of the local referee, claiming inconsistencies by the official had cost his team.

NEWCASTLE AUS-TRAL: Carter, Bowen, Achurch, Roberts, Virgilli, Devon, Bland, Bailey, Camlakamis (Tonks), Holden (Penfold), Elphick.

AVALA: Woodhouse, Hale (Quarmby), Rix, Henderson, Ashton, Brockbank, Driene,, Dragomirescu, Ackerley, Cowley (Gregson), Fitzharris (Radovic).

Referee: M.Polak.

Sunstroke!

ROBERT Stuart, the hard-working Warringah Freshwater midfielder, fell to the ground suffering from heat exhaustion close to the end of a game which saw Warringah Freshwater plod its way past Uruguay Penrith 1-0 last Sunday afternoon at Melita Stadium.

The game was stopped for a few minutes, enough to revive Stuart and the player was taken from the ground on wobbly legs still visibly shaken.

Maybe we were lucky this time and Stuart will suffer no consequences, but let this be a reminder to all that 4pm kick-offs are simply NOT on, at least for the duration of January and February.

The breeze that gently flowed diagonally across the park failed to help players who hardly managed to get out of first gear for the entire match as the sun bore mercilessly on the ground.

There was some early life and Freshwater managed to score a goal after only four minutes through their enterprising striker Mark Cimarosti, but as the game wore on mistakes slowly outpointed good moves, causing the Warringah Freshwater coach to be very critical of the match's starting time.

Freshwater were under pressure and it was only brave keeping by Dragan Pupovac and some last-gasp, desperate tackling that kept Penrith out.

Pupovac was at the feet of two Uruguay players as an unexpected back-pass landed on the 16-metre line in the 75th minute.

In the closing stages, he called for the ball and was tackled by his own player, who later claimed not to have heard the call (!), and the ball landed at the feet of Bruno Bedoni, who failed to find the net.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Pupovac, Pierce, Knight, McCue (Grimes), Dean, Sutherland (Glassock), Campbell, Casacchia, M.Pillemer (R.Pillemer), Cimarosti, Stuart.

URUGUAY PENRITH: Zabala, Kelly (Garcia), Camburn (Kodor), Bourke, Zulj, Montedeosca, Beddoni, Zullo (Batista), Gonzalez, Benitez, Volloder.

Referee: R.Doenau.

Feast of football at Melita Stadium

BY ALEX VESIC

MELITA Eagles maintained its lead in Group B after a narrow but deserved 1-0 victory over Polonia at Melita Stadium last Sunday evening.

This Federation Cup Challenge match may have produced just one goal, from a disputed penalty, but it was of a very high standard, which goes to prove that sometimes low-scoring games too can be satisfying.

Both sides, intent on playing football, thrilled the crowd with their skills, creativity and sportsman-ship to earn the deserved applause of the fans.

Polonia despite its narrow loss left the field with its head held very high indeed.

As expected, Melita came forward in droves from the opening whistle and never let up but Polonia defended stoutly and came close to causing an upset on a few occasions.

Melita's goal came after Andrew Callanan surged forward and appeared to round Allan Robertson to face the keeper. Robertson tripped and fell over Callanan and referee Allan Townsend pointed to the penalty spot.

Greg Brown netted from the resultant kick and that was the end of the scoring after 31 minutes of play.

Polonia was under siege for most of the first half but an over-elaborate Melita attack failed to deliver the killer blow.

As the second half unfolded, Polonia came back into the match and its short-passing game proved just as attractive and decisive but it could not get the ball into the net.

Stefan Janic and Pavel Janduda appeared set to break Melita's defence in the 61st minute as they faced Alfredo Barrios and the keeper.

Instead of passing the ball to Janduda, Janic decided to have a go and the ball rebounded off Barrios and back into play.

Greg Brown and Ray Farrugia had the same experience at the other end with Brown showing inexplicable selfishness to deny Farrugia the opportunity.

Craig Williams had a chance in the 78th as did Gustavo Cerro a few minutes earlier, and while Williams blasted his drive well over the bar Cerro showed his class with a scissor kick which just cleared the crossbar.

Many players shone throughout but Washington Gonzalez and Quyen Chou stole the show.

An injury to a Polonia player saw Gonzalez deliberately kick the ball out of play. When play resumed, with Polonia to throw in, it was Chou who returned the compliment by giving the ball back to the opposition.

One of the best refereeing performances of late by Allan Townsend only added to the spectacle of this match.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson, Rodriguez, Williams (Cabassi), Barrios, Gonzalez, Callanan, Farrugia, J.Cerro, G.Cerro, Gimenez, Brown.

POLONIA: Thurlow, Chou, M.Pratt (Beamer), Lasek, Robertson, Anderson, Kulwicki, Thompson (Vasic), Janic, Janduda, D.Pratt (Senol).

Referee: Allan Townsend.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

Pre-Season Challenge Cup

This Week's Matches

ROUND 3

GROUP A

FRI 17.2.89

SEYMOUR SHAW PARK

Rockdale Ilinden v Canterbury M'ville 7.30pm

Sat. 18.2.89

J.J. KELLY PARK

Inter Monaro v Sutherland Shire 4pm

Wollongong Mac v Canberra Croatia 6pm

GROUP B

Sat 18.2.89

CHOPIN PARK

Avala v Polonia 4pm

Sun 19.2.89

MELITA STADIUM

Newcastle Austral v Penrith Uruguay 4pm

Warringah F'W v Melita Eagles 6pm

See a top State League match this week!

RESULTS ROUND 2

GROUP A:
Sutherland 2 Canberra Croatia 1; Rockdale Ilinden 3 Inter Monaro 0; Wollongong Macedonia 1 Canterbury 3.

TABLE

ROCKDALE ILINDEN	2	2	0	0	5-1	4
SUTHERLAND	2	2	0	0	5-1	4
CANBERRA CROATIA	2	1	0	1	3-2	2
CANTERBURY	2	1	0	1	3-4	2
W'GONG MACEDONIA	2	0	0	2	2-5	0
INTER MONARO	2	0	0	2	0-5	0

GROUP B:
Newcastle Austral 1 Avala 0; Warringah Freshwater 1 Uruguay Penrith 0; Melita Eagles 1 Polonia 0.

TABLE

MELITA EAGLES	2	2	0	0	4-1	4
NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL	2	2	0	0	3-1	4
W'GAH FRESHWATER	2	1	0	1	2-2	2
POLONIA	2	1	0	1	2-2	2
URUGUAY PENRITH	2	0	0	2	1-3	0
AVALA	2	0	0	2	1-4	0

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Left winger Robbie Stuart against Newcastle.

Canberra enthusiasm

CANBERRA Soccer supporters got the season away to a flying start with a heartening turn-up for the NSW Cup match between Inter Monaro and Canberra Croatia at the Marco Polo Ground.

The estimated 1200 in attendance was almost three times the 475 that turned up on opening day 1988 when the two teams were engaged in a double-header with Wollongong opposition.

And it was bigger than that at any home match involving the clubs last season.

Markovski's thunderbolt

ROCKDALE Ilinden continued to impress in the NSW Federation Challenge Cup with an emphatic 3-0 win over Inter Monaro at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday evening.

The home team never looked like surrendering a point after a Zlatko Markovski thunderbolt put Ilinden ahead after 18 minutes.

Louis Dounis broke through on the left flank before finding Markovski in full flight some 30 metres from goal.

Ilinden's star midfielder took only a few steps before unleashing a superb drive which nested well out of reach of Manuel Notaras and under the crossbar for the opening goal of the match.

Markovski scored his second in the 32nd minute following an elaborate but quick foray on the left flank with almost seven players touching the ball before Zoran Naumovski squeezed his cross from near the corner flag into the penalty area for Markovski to plant it past the bewildered Notaras.

Rockdale continued to apply pressure during the second period with its defenders using the width of the park to advantage, making some big inroads particulary on the break with David Segreto, the young fullback prominent.

Eight minutes into the second half Segreto moved forward once again. This time instead of using the touch line, he moved infield racing past a few would-be tackles before slamming an unstoppable 27-metre drive which gave the Inter Monaro keeper no chance.

Hard as they tried, Inter Monaro could not break through Ilinden's well organised defence and on the few occasions when the visitors were awarded a free-kick close to the penalty area, they found Keith Warren, in goal for Ilinden, in superb touch.

Ilinden's best were Warren, Segreto, Markovski and Lerond while Inter Monaro can thank Toplica Popovic and Angelo Titilas for some speedy work at the back which denied Ilinden a bigger scoreline.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Warren, Segreto, McAusland, Buchanan, O'Donnell, Naumovski, Watson, Markovski, Dounis (Mickovski), Lerond, Porter (Martin).

INTER MONARO: Nataras, Arthur (Thompson), Monterosso, T.Popovic, Titilas, Carbone, Djordjeski, Brennan (Valeri), N.Popovic, Ambrosino, Giampaolo.

Referee: M.Robert

SHARKS TOPPLE CROATIA

SUTHERLAND Shire Westfield Soccer Sharks surprised by beating Canberra Croatia 2-1 in the early match at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday afternoon.

During an eventful first period Croatia showed an attacking attitude that should have given them the lead by half-time.

Marko Perinovic had his penalty kick saved by Nigel Nofke to deny the visitors, but the tall, burly striker from Canberra managed to put Croatia on the scoreboard early in the second period after a cross by Marcina.

Perinovic challenged Nofke to head past the keeper and give Canberra the lead. Nofke protested, claiming Perinovic had fouled him, but to no avail.

Croatia continued to press but fell foul of its own defensive mistakes. Roy Cotton was brought down on the edge of the area. Steve Meades' free-kick was floated to the far post for Cotton to head past Gunning for an equaliser.

With 13 minutes remaining, and following a quick counter-attack by Scott Leney, the locals went into the lead. Leney crossed and Daryl Sharpe was at the near post to tuck it in for the winning goal.

Full marks to Sutherland for its second successsive win of the series. Its young and enthusiastic outfit never gave up and fully deserve their hard-fought victory.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: Nofke, Carroll, Edmunds, Ensore, Nelson, R.O'Shea, Meades, Biscaya (Parsons), Hill (Sharpe), Cotton, Leney (Lardis).

CANBERRA CROATIA: Gunning, Marcina, Hoogendoorn (Florese), Dunn, Young, Kulcsar, Sermani, Junna, Perinovic, Reis, Mazis (Lemezina).

Referee: P.Spiers.

A $10,000 sponsorship cheque is handed to Wollongong Macedonia's Graeme Fletcher by Vicki Ageloska.

Casey de Bruin and Paul Kay toast the coming season as they link up with NSW State League outfit, Wollongong Macedonia.

Berries ripen

CANTERBURY Marrickville Olympic defeated Wollongong Macedonia 3-1 at Kelly Park last Sunday to cause the first boilover of the 1989 Challenge Cup.

Wollongong Macedonia sorely missed star defenders Martin Bourke and Mark Sweeney as Canterbury tore through some weak defence to score three goals in the space of nine minutes just before half-time.

Keri, Godzik and Kalogeras *netted to give* the visitors an unexpected 3-0 lead at the break, and despite Graeme Fletcher's second half goal, Canterbury never looked in danger of losing the match.

Macedonia committed many errors and did little to suggest that good times were ahead for them.

The only excuse they could offer after the match was that the players are yet to reach peak fitness.

Ironically, one player who was sold by Wollongong Macedonia to Canterbury was one of the architects of an easy 3-1 win — Bernie Godzik. He engineered a goal and scored one as Canterbury celebrated its return to the winners' *list.*

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Burchmore, Jovanovski, Mears, Galway, Slaveski, Kay, Sandy, Wellbourn, McKie, Fletcher, Thornthwaite.

CANTERBURY: Nummeu, Papayothis, Spanoudakis, Radman, Plataniotis, Keri, Marinos, Godzik, Kalogeras, Oustambasidis, Milossourgis.

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Three Roberts go chasing for the elusive ball at the Croatian Sports Centre last weekend as Robert Ironside (left) Robbie Slater (centre) and Robert Hooker vie for possession. The match ended in a thrilling draw.

SMH claims Dockerty Cup and $8000 on protest

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Victorian Soccer Federation appeals board has upheld a protest by South Melbourne Hellas over last year's Dockerty Cup final, and has awarded the cup to the Middle Park club.

Hellas lost the 1988 Dockerty Cup final 3-2 to Melbourne Croatia in November, but the appeals board has reversed the scoreline to give South Melbourne a 3-0 win.

The Dockerty Cup trophy, which currently is held by Croatia, and the $8,000 prizemoney, will be given to South Melbourne.

It is the first time in the Dockerty Cup's 80-year history that the trophy has been decided off the field of play.

The player who cost Melbourne Croatia its win is defender Paul Babic, who was found to have figured as a substitute in the final when he should have been serving a three-match suspension.

Babic was sent off while playing for Croatia in the NSL youth league finals, and South Melbourne's protest was based on the argument that he could not play in any other competition until the suspension had been served.

The VSF appeals board used VSF rule number B79-400, which deals with ineligible players, to effect its decision.

Hellas had fired in a protest over the final late last year, and at the initial tribunal hearing Croatia was fined $500 but the result in Croatia's favour was allowed to stand.

In reversing its decision last week, the appeals board not only awarded Hellas the cup, but ruled that the fine must also be paid by the offending club.

Hand Youth teams to AIS

The National Youth teams are to expect full support from clubs Australia-wide, this a must.

States and coaches from states never stop complaining of "biased" selection and coaching appointments.

This is natural, but it will never cease if the current set-up prevails with all the coaches and assistants attached to NSW clubs.

If it was controlled by the Australian Institute of Sport staff, this would not occur.

The sideline and backroom "experts" would all be satisfied, and let's face it, the AIS is probably responsible for at least 50% of the preparation of the under 19s now.

One more staff member would have to be appointed with the stipulation that no member af the AIS staff could be attached to a NSW club.

The preparation of national youth teams must be entirely free of club or state influence.

I believe the current selection and coaching situation is a recipe for suspicion and innuendo, with coaches of both youth sides attached to NSW clubs.

If this situation is to continue, I consider it will definitely lead to clubs no longer submitting players for trials and enrolment at the AIS.

The recent placing of a huge transfer fee on a State League under 19 player was a case in point: with the way the world market is, a player's value quadruples once he represents his country.

The advantages of preparation by the AIS are:

1. FINANCIAL: It must be more economical to pay an extra coach at the AIS than two coaches and two assistants and their entourage, especially as 50% of that coach's time could be employed in other related duties.
2. PERMANENT: This would allow for full-time staff without paying full-time wages: "staff on demand".
3. THE FACILITIES: The best in Australia with unequalled back-up facilities.
4. NO STATE JEALOUSIES: or game-destroying lobbying.
5. The expertise of three qualified coaches to call on.
6. THE CO-ORDINATION OF TALENT DEVELOPMENT: Under 16s via the AIS through to under 19s with state directors of coaching running intensive under 15 schemes.

Let forward planning of the game come before politics.

By the way, it will be of interest to see where leading players from the national under 16 side turn up in 1989.

— DAVID LEE

NSW Director of Coaching

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Johnson at Southern Districts

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

LIVERPOOL-based Southern Districts United has engaged former English professional, Mike Johnson, as its manager-coach for the next three seasons.

MIKE JOHNSON

The Turkish sponsored 3rd Division club aims to be in State League Div 1 at the end of that period.

Johnson is not a stranger to promotion battles, having piloted both Sutherland and Fairy Meadow to the top NSW competition in previous years.

The most likeable and highly astute Johnson wants to develope his own players and build a club.

Southern Districts United Club has only been in Federation football for one season, following the buy-out of the old Dee Why Soccer Club.

REFEREES CORNER

Terry Seacy in chair with NSW Referees

WELL KNOWN referee Terry Seacy has been appointed as president of the NSW Referees.

TERRY SEACY

He succeeds another former NSL referee, Doug Rennie, who is now combining his refereeing interests with a position on the board of the NSW Soccer Federation.

Mr Seacy had 10 years on the NSL panel, and a total of 32 years as an active referee.

At 47 years of age he still had three years to go prior to retirement at top level.

He told us: "Due to the speed of the modern day game, plus occasional extreme temperatures, I do not believe at the age of 47 you can physically and mentally match players some 20-27 years younger.

"With my NSL, New Zealand National League and Football Combination (UK) experience, plus my managerial and administrative background, I believe I will be able to be of service to Soccer for many years to come."

Speaking of the current scene, he added: "NSW referees on both NSL and NSW Federation appointments will continue with the clean-up campaign started two years ago with the NSL.

"I believe the success of the Australian national team, which is currently producing more skilled players, has been greatly enhanced by the NSL clean-up campaign.

"It now has to be filtered down to Federation games, from where the next generation of Socceroos will emerge.

"NSW has two new referees this season on the NSL panel, Alan Townsend and Peter Spiers.

"Along with John McConnell, who had his first season in the NSL last year, it means that 50% of our representatives are new recruits to the NSL.

"The other three members are our two FIFA referees, Richard Lorenc and Gary Power, and Arthur Owens.

"We are pleased to say that we have several other referees now knocking on the door of the NSL, which means competition for the six positions will be keen.

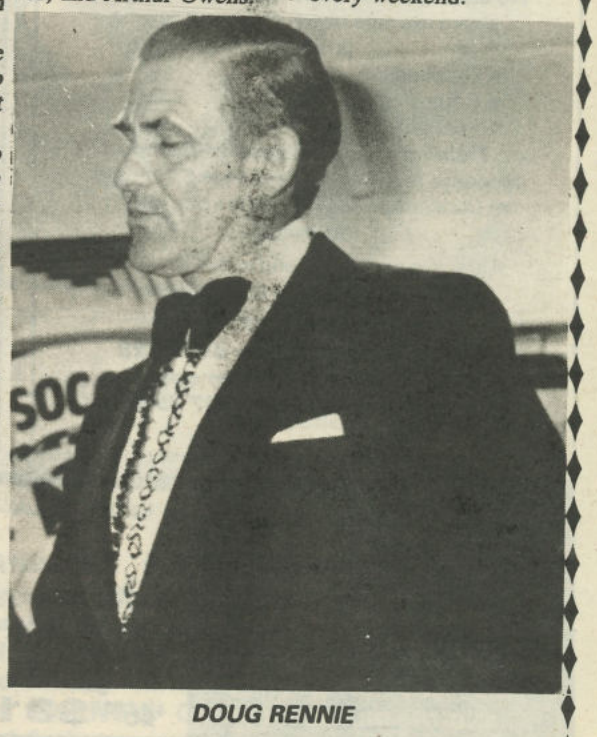
"We expect top performances from our referees, not only in the NSL but in NSW State League and Federation Divisions.

"Training has been increased for all top whistlers and new FIFA fitness tests are now being utilised.

"We were fortunate to have Frank Arok and Dr Brian Corrigan address us at a special seminar for NSL and senior referees, discussing co-operation with managers, coaches and recognition of injuries to players.

"As president, I expect a professional performance both on and off the field from our members, be it in international, NSL, State League or Federation games.

"In support of our referees, we will supply strong representation at all levels of administration to ensure they are recognised for the difficult task they carry out every weekend."



DOUG RENNIE

Nightmare hopefully over for Juventus

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR most of the Brunswick Juventus crew whose ship sank without a trace in 1988, the nightmare that was last season is all but over.

For Joe Palatsides and Mehmet Durakovic there is life anew at ambitious Melbourne City JUST, whilst former Rothmans Medal winner Andrew Zinni has linked up with big-spending Preston Makedonia and Socceroo Mike Petersen has joined high-flying South Melbourne Hellas.

For some half a dozen other players, the disaster-stricken 1988 season seems to have never stopped.

And all six, with perhaps the exception of big Socceroo Garry McDowall, must be wondering when the nightmare will end.

Brian Brown, Scott Patterson, John Yzendoorn, Frank McGrellis and Fabio Incantalupo are all on the NSL outer, and with the season already five weeks old there seems little likelihood of the doors reopening.

MANNIE SCHAEFER

And for most of them, it is a cruel way to end fine NSL careers.

McDowall will play NSL football again soon, when he has recovered from that troublesome Achilles tendon surgery.

For Scotty Patterson, the bustling big-hearted midfielder with possibly the best potential of the ousted half-dozen, the disaster of 1988 has left him questioning his entire career.

The last time I ran into 'SP' we shared a few friendly ales and he talked of his disillusionment with the game and of the question marks on his future.

For the club itself, 1989 has started on a promising enough note.

Manfred Schaefer, the man who almost pulled Juventus out of the relegation mire when he joined the club as coach late last year, has resigned for a season in an attempt to get the club back into the NSL in one go.

The signs are there that Juventus, like Heidelberg last year, will be a big threat for State League honours.

FABIO INCANTALUPO

Aside from signing new players, it has also convinced a number of the experienced brigade to stay on for the new campaign.

Amongst those preparing for the 1989 State League challenge are Charlie Eagan, Steve Marley, Peter Laumets, Pat Marama, Sean Lane, Willie Herd, Vlatko Belic and Reno Minichiello.

South too good in Buffalo final

BY GREG BLAKE

IT was billed as the battle of Melbourne's heavyweights and it ended with Melbourne City JUST proving it was fighting well above its class as it was battered into submission by rampaging South Melbourne Hellas in last Wednesday night's Buffalo Gold Cup final at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

Hellas weathered some early body punches before coming out swinging and turning the contenders from JUST into pretenders with three knock-out blows.

And South Melbourne's 'Blue and White army' celebrated in boisterous fashion as their Middle Park heroes were crowned the undisputed Cup kings.

South Melbourne's 3-0 win was its second Buffalo Gold Cup triumph in succession and its third straight final.

Despite missing the heart of its midfield, Hellas collected the Buffalo Cup in spectacular style on the way through to the final.

And the cup win was no fluke. It was as emphatic for the victor as it was sobering for the bedraggled and vanquished JUST club, which has now failed to win a major trophy since 1975.

When Steve Blair struck to open the score in the 26th minute, the roars of the Hellas fans reverberated around Olympic Park, for a grander goal the big defender has rarely scored.

David Healy sent a long, raking cross spinning in from the right to where Blair, edging into the area, almost nonchalantly twisted his powerhouse frame and crashed a bullet-like header wheeling past the stunned JUST defence.

And what fight was left in the Blues disappeared shortly after half time when substitute Radovan Barjaktarevic was sent off following two cautionable offences in quick succession.

Paul Trimboli, surely a footballing maestro in the making, made it 2-0 18 minutes from time as he ran a ball from midway inside the JUST half before cutting inside the box and squeezing the daintiest of left-footers between the pressuring Kenny Murphy and goalkeeper Nikitovic.

'Trim' had his hand in the third, just seven minutes later, when his sensational cross-field ball to Harry Michail cut the JUST defence to pieces and the young substitute kept his head to score from 15 metres.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Maclaren, Russell, Postecoglou, Fernandes, Blair, Healy, Foster (Michail 45), Petersen, Trimboli, Wright, Mori.

MELBOURNE JUST: Nikitovic, Deankovic (Barjaktarevic 45 — sent off 59), Mitrovski, Durakovic, van Egmond (Fabrizio 45), Murphy, Tapai, Tortevski, Palatsides, Crino, Dimovski.

Referee: J. Fraser. Crowd: 6815.

Petersen's in love with his new team

BY GREG BLAKE

AS the jubilant South Melbourne Hellas team trooped triumphantly from an Olympic Park seemingly wall-to-wall blue and white after last Wednesday night's Buffalo Gold Cup final, Mike Petersen was beaming the grin of a winner.

And there's no doubt that for the tall and elegant Socceroo midfielder smiling the smile of victory couldn't feel better.

After 12 tumultuous months at doomed Juventus, when disagreements with coach Len McKendry were rumoured, relationships with some other players were sometimes soured and injuries nagged him, Petersen was back in business.

Although Petersen hasn't displayed the brilliance and bravado of old in his first two games for Hellas, it hasn't been for want of trying.

He was exhausted after his first outing against George Cross and was grateful to just get through his first competitive game for many months.

Apart from the worry of not starting the season with an NSL club, and subsequently doing little pre-season preparation, Petersen has struggled to recover from a stomach virus.

"It certainly knocked me about a bit and I'm just getting over it now", he explained.

"But it didn't bother me going straight into the team. I guess my only problem was that I was a bit nervous for my first game.

"But having said that, they're a good bunch of guys and it wasn't hard to fit in."

Petersen, who was chased by both Hellas and Melbourne JUST, finally went for the move to Middle Park for almost sentimental reasons.

"I used to watch them as a kid", he admitted.

But it is a dual-edged sword as Hellas desperately needed the Socceroo to bolster its ailing midfield in the absence of Paul Wade and Steve Tasios.

"I needed the move and I'm determined to put last season behind me by getting success here," he said.

"I really feel I've got a point to prove. We've done well so far and now I'm looking forward to 'Wadey' getting back and playing alongside me."

Petersen is relishing his fresh start at Middle Park under a coach he has long admired after working briefly with Brian Garvey previously at Heidelberg.

"Brian's training advocates skill and ball work and I haven't enjoyed training this much for some time," Petersen says.

Melbourne — Budapest International Soccer Club

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All Whites are all pumped up

NEW Zealand coach John Adshead has called up three European-based players for the All Whites' opening World Cup match against Israel in Tel Aviv.

He has selected the Rufer brothers who play in Switzerland — Shane, with Bellinzona, and Wynton, with Grasshoppers Zurich.

Adshead also picked fullback Tommy Mason, who plays non-League football in England, with Farnborough Town.

Not selected was Ceri Evans, now with Oxford United.

Adshead, who was once described as a "poor man's Bill Shankly", expects his squad's pre-match camp in London to work wonders for his side.

After watching videos of Israel's 2-0 defeat to Holland and last month's 4-0 hammering, also at home, an under-strength Dynamo Kiev, he believes his All Whites have no cause for any inferiority complex when they take the field at a packed Ramat Gan Stadium on March 5.

Adshead's knack of instilling faith in his players may work again.

New Zealand is living in hope that the "Miracle of 1982" repeats itself.

That, of course, was the year the Kiwis made their first and only appearance at the World Cup finals after travelling some 75,000 kilometres and playing a record 15 matches to qualify.

— LOU GAUTIER

SOCCEROO PROGRAMME

THE immediate Socceroo programme for friendly and World Cup matches is:

v Malmo FF, Melbourne, Friday February 17
v Malmo FF, Parramatta, Wednesday February 22
v New Zealand, Sydney, March 12
v Israel, Tel Aviv, March 19
v New Zealand, Auckland, April 2
v Israel, Sydney, April 16

NO BRAILOVSKI FOR ISRAEL!

ISRAEL's temperamental Daniel Brailovski, who played against the Socceroos in the 1988 Olympic qualifiers, will not play in this year's World Cup games against Australia and New Zealand.

Brailovski is back in Argentina and he competed in the recently concluded Veterans' "World Cup" (for over-30 players) in Brazil — for his native country. He scored two goals for the Argentina seniors.

Brailovski promised much, but delivered little in his brief career in Israel.

Being of Jewish extraction, he enjoys dual nationality, but appears to have again opted for Argentina.

Eli Ohana, Israel's star performer, suffered a facial injury playing for his Belgian club Mechelen, and may be out of action for some time.

He may miss Israel's first two games.

There is some doubt also whether the new national team coach management will select the other three European-based Israeli internationals — Avi Cohen, Tivka and Rosenthal.

There is a question mark too over the clever Mamilian following a row with officials over payments.

Wales held

Last week Israel held Wales to a 3-3 draw in Tel Aviv.

They raced to a 2-0 lead after Nir Klinger scored with a header in the 5th minute and Nir Alon followed up with another header three minutes later.

Wales' first goal came 11 minutes into the game with a shot from Barry Horne.

Israel's Eitan Aharoni scored an own goal to level the score for Wales, but Eli Draks put Israel ahead again in the 70th.

Wales equalised with three minutes left through Malcolm Allan.

Our Socceroos

Peter Raskopoulos

Steve Calderan

Jason Polak

THIS is the 17-man Socceroo squad for Friday's match in Melbourne against Malmo:

JEFF OLVER — goalkeeper (19)
MIKE GIBSON — goalkeeper (2)
GRAHAM JENNINGS — defender (29)
GARY VAN EGMOND — defender (—)
WARREN SPINK — striker (—)
GRAHAM ARNOLD — striker (14)
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW — striker (2)
STEVE CALDERAN — defender (—)
ROBBIE SLATER — striker (4)
PAUL TRIMBOLI — striker (—)
WALLY SAVOR — defender (15)
ANDY KOCZKA — defender (—)
ALAN DAVIDSON — midfielder (23)
JASON POLAK — midfielder (—)
OSCAR CRINO — midfielder (28)
ANDREW BERNAL — defender (—)
PETER RASKOPOULOS — midfielder (2)

PAUL TRIMBOLI

The number which appears in brackets above indicates the player's appearances in "unofficial" internationals (i.e. v club sides like Malmo FF) — not full internationals against national teams.

Andrew Bernal and Steve Calderan are the only uncapped (full A internationals) players in the squad.

Peter Raskopoulos, recalled to the squad after a 12-month absence, has 15 full caps to his credit.

The squad assembled in camp on Tuesday — the day the Swedes arrived from Hong Kong.

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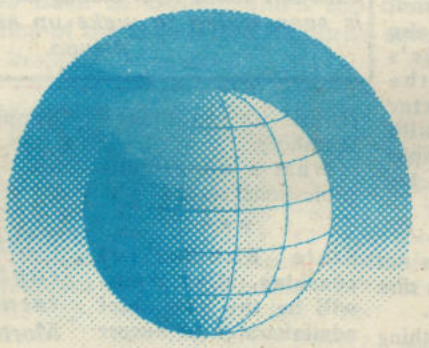


SBS TELEVISION

SBS-TV THE SUPER SOCCER CHANNEL

CHIT CHAT

Sydney radio station 2KY now features a 10-minute Soccer segment in David Lord's Sunday afternoon sports program. The Soccer spot is presented by SBS' Les Murray and can be heard between 12.30 am 1pm.

★★★

EDDIE KRNCEVIC, who is very hopeful of being released by Anderlecht for Australia's World Cup tie against Israel in Tel Aviv on March 19, is keeping tabs on the Belgian-based Israeli internationals who will probably only be released for Israel's home matches — Ohana, Rosenthal and Tivka. The first is injured, but the other two are playing well, according to Eddie.

★★★

Adding his experience to the Marconi football committee is Remo Nogarotto. As executive director of the Housing Industry Association in Sydney, with an office in Parramatta, his business expertise is of great value to the club.

John Kosmina says he enjoys the "relaxed" atmosphere within his new club, Apia Leichhardt, and is not sorry he left Sydney Olympic where the pressure to produce results week in week out was a strain.

"Kossie" is happy with his form this year and is confident goals will soon come his way again.

★★★

SBS-TV reports it has received literally hundreds of letters from worried Soccer fans regarding their coverage of NSL and international matches since the three-way battle for rights between the ASF and the two government-funded networks.

★★★

SCOTT OLLERENSHAW celebrated his 21st birthday last Friday. Dozens of relatives, friends, club officials and supporters attended a huge catered affair after the St George vs Melbourne Croatia match.

★★★

ROBBIE SLATER has received an offer just too good to refuse — a trial with Bayern Munich! He is keen as mustard to jump on the chance as soon as possible. Watch for further developments.

★★★

JOHN WARREN has announced his candidacy for Federal Parliament. He will stand as an independent in the St George area seat of Barton, now held by Gary Punch, a minister in the Hawke government.

A second player from Papua New Guinea may soon join Sydney Croatia — Des Vaka, a midfielder.

Croatia paid for his trip to Sydney and if he's good enough, he will link up with compatriot Manny Lamond.

★★★

Rumour has it that Marconi is looking to South America for a replacement for Frank Farina. The club is said to have its eye on a player from Uruguay.

★★★

Young Socceroo Zlato Arambasic's second appeal against his $27,500 transfer fee was heard earlier this week by the NSW Soccer Federation.

His original fee was a staggering $50,000, but Blacktown City is only interested in paying much less than the reduced fee to Canterbury-Marrickville for his services.

★★★

Adelaide City president Charlie Caruso has said the knives are not out for coach Zoran Matic.

City has made a disastrous start to the season but Caruso said Matic is under no threat.

"Sure, Zoran is worried. He wouldn't be human if he was not. But the club is more stable than that," said Caruso.

"The knives are not out for the coach and there have been no squabbles involving the players."

★★★

Adelaide City maybe should insist on getting interstate referees for home games.

Mike Browning, from SA, fell out of NSL favour last year and Jim Rossis also polled lowly in a City popularity vote last season.

Tom McRoe supposedly has been reported by the club for allegedly swearing at City players Bugsy Nyskohus and Sergio Melta.

Life was not meant to be easy for SA refs on the NSL panel.

The only problem with interstate whistlers at SA games, though, is that they cost the club more.

TRUE to their policy, St George once again came up with two signings of young players who could be NSL choices in the near-future.

Tony Krslovic, who came through the ranks with Sydney Croatia, is a bustling central striker.

And the other player is an 18-year-old midfielder from the big Soccer nursery of Newcastle.

He is Craig McGregor, who is the Australian schoolboy captain.

★★★

Congratulations to HEIDELBERG for promptly adding large and legible numbers to the back of their jerseys.

★★★

IVAN KELIC, the 20-year-old Melbourne Croatia sensation who tops the NSL scoring chart with eight goals from five games, is being touted as the "new Eddie Krncevic". Tony Vrzina, Kelic's coach at St Albans last season, was the coach who also spotted Krncevic's potential when the Anderlecht superstar was a 16-year-old with Juventus. Vrzina thinks Kelic can follow in big Eddie's footsteps.

★★★

One NSL club does not just appear to be in dire straits on the field.

Seemingly, everything is not rosy either in the players' gear locker.

Several players have had to buy their own socks and at least two have not yet been supplied with boots by the club.

One borrowed a pair from a team-mate to play in a State Cup competition and another lined up in black sandshoes.

What a wonderfully professional set-up!

★★★

State director of coaching, Mike Wells, will be the new chief administrator of Soccer in South Australia.

He will take over as general secretary from Peter Nikolich who retired late last year.

★★★

STEVE GEORGAKIS, the Young Socceroo defender, has settled his differences with Sydney Olympic and has signed a new contract with the club.

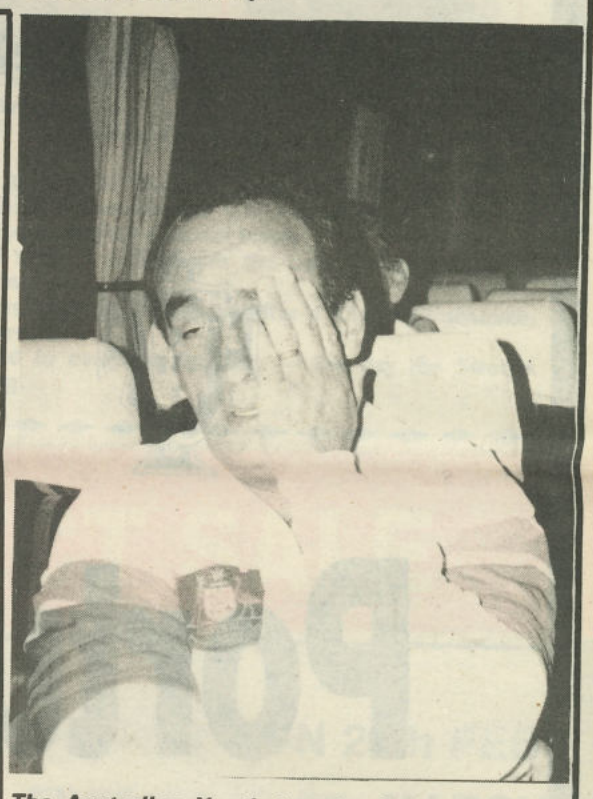
★★★

FORMER Australian rugby league international Steve Mortimer was an interested spectator at the Sydney Croatia v Sydney Olympic game at the Croatian Sports Centre last Sunday.

"It was my first look at club Soccer, although I have seen many internationals," he said.

YOUNG SOCCEROOS IN SYRIA

Members of the young Socceroo team stretch their legs in Rome. They had an eight-hour stopover before travelling on to the Syrian city of Aleppo, where they were finally narrowly eliminated from the World Youth Cup.



The Australian Youth team's six-hour bus trip from Damascus to Aleppo in Syria came on top of 48 hours of flying and waiting time. Ask assistant coach Raul Blanco all about it! Here he is seen trying to wake up as the bus nears Aleppo.

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GREG RUSSELL REPORTS

Pre-season starts

NORTH STAR will be hoping history repeats itself when they begin the defence of their XXXX pre-season tournament champions title at Perry Park this week.

The club beat Olympic United 2-0 in the final last year then returned to Perry Park eight months later to win the QSF grand final 2-1 against Brisbane City.

"We'd like to clinch the double again," said North Star coach Billy Williamson. "The pre-season must be taken just as seriously as the league because I think it is impossible for a team to get off to a good start if it hasn't been playing well in the pre-season matches.

"We're out to win everything this year and we will be playing to win every time we step on the park."

North Star are in a tricky, but not difficult first round group. They only have to finish first or second in a three-team grouping which includes last season's fifth-placed Olympic United and ninth-placed Taringa.

On paper, North Star should win the group comfortably. But Olympic and Taringa are renowned fighters and prone to cause upsets. Indeed, in reaching the final last year, Olympic swept past much more fancied opposition.

The groupings for this year's $7000 tournament are:

Group A: Brisbane City, Eastern Suburbs, Pine Rivers.

Group B: Brisbane Lions, Rochedale Rovers, Grange Thistle.

Group C: Coalstars, Mount Gravatt, Redlands United.

Group D: North Star, Olympic United, Taringa Rovers.

The draw for the tournament is:

Monday February 13: 6.30pm Brisbane City v Pine Rivers United, 8.30pm Coalstars v Redlands United.

Wednesday February 15: 6.30pm North Star v Olympic United, 8.30pm Brisbane Lions v Grange Thistle.

Friday February 17: 6.30pm Eastern Suburbs v Pine Rivers United, 8.30pm Coalstars v Mount Gravatt.

Monday February 20: 6.30pm Brisbane Lions v Rochedale Rovers, 8.30pm Taringa Rovers v Olympic United.

Wednesday February 22: 6.30pm Mount Gravatt v Redlands United, 8.30pm Brisbane City v Eastern Suburbs.

Friday February 24: 6.30pm Rochedale Rovers v Grange Thistle, 8.30pm North Star v Taringa Rovers.

Quarter-finals: Wednesday March 1 — 6.30pm & 8.30pm, Friday March 3 6.30pm & 8.30pm.

Semi-finals: Wednesday March 8 — 6.30pm & 8.30pm.

Final: Wednesday March 15 — 7.30pm.

Arno Bertogna (left) in Apia's colours against Juventus Brunswick. He's now aiming for Queensland representative honours.

Vogler, Warren united for Ipswich revival

BY GREG RUSSELL

RELEGATED XXXX League club Ipswich United will begin their bid to bounce back to Queensland's top division with the unexpected assisance of the club's two favourite sons.

United, who dropped out of the top division for the first time in two decades after finishing bottom of the table last season, have managed to convince Queensland representative Peter Vogler to play Division Two and have welcomed back former club captain, Wayne Warren.

Vogler, who stunned NSW with his uncompromising style in his state team debut last year, had been tipped to leave Ebbw Vale to continue playing XXXX League football.

But the unorthodox 25-year-old striker, who has played with United for the past 21 seasons, has maintained his loyalty.

"They asked me to give them one more year. I could walk out of them now," Vogler said.

Vogler concedes his decision may cost him his state shirt, although he is determined to get among the Second Division goals to keep his hopes alive.

And State coach Bruce Stowell has offered the speedy striker hope.

"I will give every player the same opportunity to be selected, irrespective of the division he plays in," Stowell said. "But I believe it is to any player's benefit to aspire to play in the best possible division."

Warren, 31, who played for United for 23 seasons, including 15 as a first teamer, has returned to Ebbw Vale after a one-year coaching stint with local rivals Coalstars.

Warren, a stopper, retired after the 1987 season and took on the Coalstars XXXX reserve grade team, which he coached to the grand final last season.

When Coalstars coach Brian Styles stunned the club by resigning to coach Ipswich United, Warren was considered by many as a hot favourite for the position.

The Coalstars committee saw otherwise, appointing team captain Mark Brusasco as player-coach.

Warren said the decision proved to harden his simmering thoughts of a playing comeback.

"Making a comeback had been in the back of my mind for some time, particularly after I looked at some of the guys in my grand final team last year who were older than me," Warren said.

"I started to think that you could only play while you are young. You can coach for the rest of your life.

"I am not bitter or annoyed with anyone at Coalstars. I'm just a bit disappointed circumstances didn't flow better."

Warren also has been appointed United's junior director of coaching.

NIVEN WALKS OUT

FORMER Socceroo Alan Niven has ended a 12-year association with Brisbane Lions on an unhappy note.

Niven, 33, walked out of the club after negotiations for a new contract reached a stalemate. He vowed: "I can never go back".

Niven is now training with XXXX League rivals Mount Gravatt and is expected to play for the Hawks in the XXXX pre-season tournament which started this week.

Niven was linked with Mount Gravatt earlier in the year, but returned to Lions after an appeal against his $5000 transfer fee upheld the asking price.

It is understood Mount Gravatt have since offered $2000, but Lions are unlikely to offer any drastic reduction.

If a transfer does not go through before the start of the season, Niven said he was quite prepared to quit playing and go into coaching.

Niven's association with Lions has been a successful one since he came to Australia in 1977 after being apprenticed with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He has played for Australia, in the Les Scheinflug era, and with 18 state appearances is the most capped active Queensland player.

His dispute with Lions is understood to have developed over a differing of opinions as to a maximum transfer clause in his new contract. Niven said he would agree to play one more season at Richlands if the club would agree to let him go cheaply at the end of the season,

" I thought it was the least they could do after all these years at the club," he said.

It is understood Niven wanted a free transfer or at the most $1500. The club's lowest offer was $3000.

Club officials believe they acted fairly and Niven was wanting everything his own way.

"The club has done a lot for Alan Niven. He has always been well paid and looked after," said Lions director Norton Chester, "I don't think $3000 is too much for a player who probably will still play for Queenslsand this season."

Did You Know?

— That Queensland's first Soccer club, the Rangers, was formed in 1883?

Bertogna seeks new honours

QUEENSLAND Soccer's latest recruit, former NSW captain Arno Bertogna, believes he will be playing National League again within 12 months.

"I wouldn't be coming up here if I didn't think Lions were capable of getting back into the NSL," Bertogna said on his arrival in Brisbane to play with the Richlands club.

"I thought they were a little unlucky last year when they were relegated and I am sure they can come back much stronger."

Bertogna was snapped up by Lions after his dispute with Apia Leichhardt ended with his transfer being reduced by appeal from $25,000 to $5000. His wife is a Queenslander, which made the decision to head north an easy one.

The move north was in stark opposition to the usual southern player-drain which has weakened Queensland clubs for many years. But Bertogna believes he is only the first in what could become a trend.

Bertogna, 29, believes Sydney and Melbourne clubs have pushed transfer fees and player payments beyond their own means.

"The southern scene always has been about money, but it has to level out," he said. "When that happens, players will start looking for clubs with the best facilities and opportunities, and several Queensland clubs rank highly in that regard."

Although Bertogna has been selected to play for NSW in all five interstate matches since the series was revived, he admitted he was enthused about the idea of wearing Maroon against the Blues.

"I've got to make the squad first, and if I do I'll be giving everything to beat NSW," he said.

Bertogna will make his debut for Lions in the XXXX pre-season tournament at Perry Park this week. He almost certainly will be used as stopper, a position Lions have struggled to fill since Frank Liddell, now the team's coach, was injured in the early round of the NSL last year.

Liddell, not surprisingly, rates Bertogna the Queensland "buy of the season".

"Arno is a quality player with plenty of experience that will add a lot of strength to our defence," Liddell said.

"It's just a pity we didn't have him 12 months ago. We might be lining up for the next round of the NSL rather than the XXXX pre-season tournament."

The State Story

Alan Clark reviews the Soccer scene in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Second Division rivals Cumberland and Blacktown will meet for the Mitcham Cup on Saturday, March 11 at Bailey Reserve.

A charity of the mayor's choice will benefit from the day.

★★★

SA Soccer Federation chairman Jim Carapetis was impressed with the passion of Soccer fans in Syria when the Youth Socceroos played there.

Carapetis was tour leader for the young Aussies' unsuccessful bid for a berth in the World Youth Cup finals next month in Saudi Arabia.

"They really love their Soccer out there," said the SA chief.

"We played in front of 35-40,000 fans each game and the match we lost against Syria was a sell-out.

They locked the gates two hours before the kick-off and called in the police to control the fans outside.

"Australia played well and we were a bit unlucky to have injuries rob us of two key defenders.

"That meant we had to reorganise and we did well and were the best team in the competition but others played better on the day."

★★★

Adelaide City is likely to give its NSL squad a confidence-lifting run tonight in the Ampol Cup clash against Salisbury at Hindmarsh.

City heads Group A of the night series on goal difference and will be looking for a good performance to keep its top rating.

The NSL men must play tonight to be eligible for the later stages fo the competition and look certain to be given a run.

Salisbury were eliminated last week when they went down 2-1 to new-look Croatia.

But the pride of the northern suburbs club will see them very competitive.

Croatia played simply and efficiently last week and, after soaking up plenty of pressure, shocked Salisbury with goals from Slavko Cafuta and key defender Robbie Slager.

The Berries replied with a good goal from midfield man Sean Greaves but could not grab an equaliser.

Hellas new boys Colin Miller and Lemmy Vatsilas played well in their side's 3-1 Group B win against Para Hills.

But another new boy, Youth Socceroo Mark Brazzale, was the match winner with two goals.

Hellas' other counter came from Scottish import Raymond Blair, who made a devastating entry as a second half substitute.

Para, which played well despite the final scoreline, was rewarded by a goal from Neil Edwards after an exciting run from his brother Davie.

Para is out of the cup but will be out to salvage something from the series tonight against Campbelltown which has not impressed so far.

Campbelltown must win handsomely to have an outside chance of notching a place in the semis but they do not seem to have the firepower to worry Para.

★★★

Adelaide Croatia — Rothmans State League Champions & PGH Federation Cup winners: Tony Breneck (team manager), Robert Slager, Jesper Sorensen, Zoran Maricic (capt coach), Peter Rankin, Peter Blazincic, Ante Gubic (Fisio), Tim Horry. Front: Quentin Watkins, Mick Barnett, Chris Todd, Mike Donnelly, Steven Witwicki, Ivica Jurkovic, Robert Marwe, Mick Paleka (Mascot) — Pic by CARLO IRLITTI.

Croatia signing

CROATIA, which lost nine of last season's League and Cup double-winning side, has been given a boost by re-signing experienced goalkeeper Howie Jacques.

It also is in the market for exciting Salisbury striker Tony Gasparetto and may land an interstate midfield player.

The full complement of men in black are back in action in SA.

Official referee training started last week with the local whistlers struggling for breath in their first session in near century heat.

★★★

Campbelltown City reportedly has offered two potential signings from Legia Warsaw to NSL club Adelaide City.

One unnamed midfielder and sweeper were due to arrive in SA for the Rothmans League season but the Red Devils now believe they cannot afford the move.

Adelaide City are unlikely to accept Campbelltown's kind offer.

★★★

Polonia has dipped into the transfer market to sign Adelaide City striker Phil Scardigno.

The big, burly forward was a Rothmans League player with City.

★★★

Hellas has made a signing coup by fixing up Adelaide City duo Lemmy Vatsilas and Colin Miller.

They join Zoran Maricic, Quenten Watkins, Mike Barnett, Greg Mills, Peter Rankine and Mark Brazzale as new Hellas players.

★★★

Salisbury expects to sign Campbelltown defender Dave Ouwerkerk.

He will be an ideal replacement for former NSL man Tim Brown, who is due to leave in April for Queensland.

★★★

Hindmarsh Stadium will be closed for a month from October.

That will enable Hindmarsh Council to carry out work on the pitch and surrounds between the close of the Rothmans State season in September and the return of NSL action in November.

Modbury has signed former Beograd goalkeeper Alistair Crook.

The former Hellas custodian, who is no relation to ex-Socceroo Martyn Crook, also a goalkeeper in SA, had been training with USC Lion-Grange.

★★★

Para Hills has secured giant defender John 'Stretch' Piwanski for this season.

He played for amateur side Croydon Park but was on loan from Polonia.

Para also hopes to fix up Cumberland midfielder Geoff Flynn and welcomed back Ray Deeley for last week's Ampol Cup clash with Hellas.

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

Adelaide United, promoted to the First Division last year, wants a key defender.

He is needed to replace experienced Wolfgang Jovanovic, who is to Perth to take up a PR appointment.

★★★

Birkalla Eagles is expecting another boost to its squad by the end of the month with the return of ace striker Eddie Briscoe.

The explosive young player has been on holiday home in England but could return in time for Birkalla's League start in mid-March.

He may have a new midfield role this year.

★★★

Croatia's Hanson Reserve looks likely to be a picture this season.

The local Enfield Council is to top-dress the surface and give Croatia one of the best home grounds in SA.

The building work on new club and changerooms and a spectator enclosure should go ahead soon.

★★★

March 15 will be a special day for Birkalla Eagles coach Neil McGachey.

It's the day when his official suspension ends.

He was banned last season by the SA Soccer Federation after an incident involving referee Mike Browning.

Quentin Watkins of Adelaide Croatia tries a shot as Polonia's Frank Tinar intervenes. PGH Federation Cup final action.

Geelong Cup

BY ROY HAY

THE top four teams in Geelong duly qualified for the semi-finals of the Geelong Advertiser Cup, Victoria's premier non-metropolitan Soccer tournament, but not without some hiccups on the way.

Victorian Second Division team, North Geelong, was within one minute of disaster as Provisional League side Brintons led 2-1 in a group match, which North had to draw to reach the semis.

North's new signing, Danny Ward, got free about 20 metres out and hit a looping shot which goalie Colin Bishop could only palm into his own net.

Even then, Brintons refused to die and in their final attack, Ashley McIntyre had a clear shot at goal. North keeper, Ismail Ali, got his fingertips to the ball and pushed it on to the bar.

Norths' players were last seen rushing to buy Tatts tickets while the luck held. Earlier goals had come from John Hrkac for North and McIntyre and Paul Mills for Brintons.

Corio-Geelong United survived a torrid spell of pressure by the Western Victorian Association before winning 2-0.

Ivan Delemar hit the woodwork three times for WVSA, after Robbie Noggler put Corio-Geelong ahead with a fierce swerving shot. Steve Radojevic secured the points with a second half goal on the break.

Geelong, last season's Division III champions, and the form team of the moment, had already qualified before ackling Hamlyn Rangers.

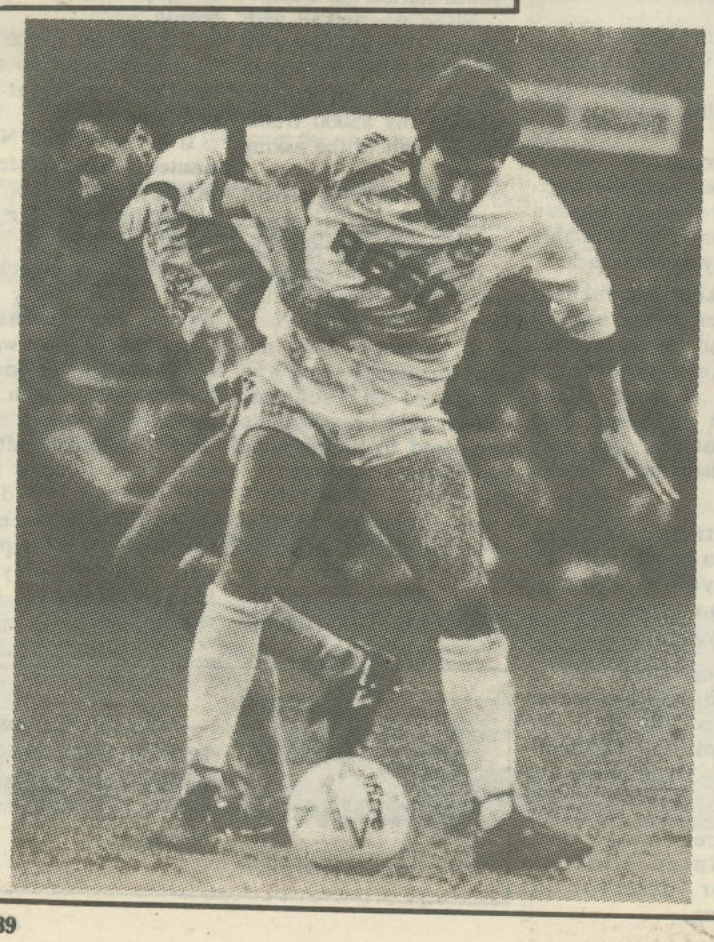
It was just as well, for after Darren Tuck ran through the centre to score easily, the Geelong machine stuttered.

Darren Nelson poked the ball out of Sean Howe's grasp to equalise and Hamlyn could easily have stolen the game in the final stages.

Bell Park looked ominous as it cruised to a 2-0 win over East Geelong. The running of the ball was a feature of the first 20 minutes, which brought fine goals by David Mills and Mick Oppermann.

This week's semi-finals see Geelong play Corio-Geelong United tonight (Wednesday) and Ball Park take on North Geelong on Friday.

ENGLISH LEAGUE ACTION



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ED—TOR

THE cover story this week draws attention to the potential of Soccer in Australia.

Major matches exist which have world-wide significance, and provide high-class football which is worthwhile televising and reporting right throughout Australia.

The overseas teams involved would produce sell-out crowds — certainly a packed Sydney Football Stadium or Olympic Park would provide a fine backdrop for the action.

On top of that the games would receive huge overseas cover, providing funds and publicising Australian Soccer.

Although apparently the returns from television for the Bicentennial Gold Cup were less than expected, the lessons learnt from that operation would enable definite improvements to be made.

Television is, of course, becoming more important in sport as witness the tug of war to obtain World Cup and NSL rights, although the print media and radio have outstanding parts to play.

It is understood that the Nine Network, having been trumped by the huge $39 million Seven bid for the Olympic Games, put a $10 million offer to SBS to take over the World Cup.

The fact that Nine, perhaps reluctantly, would lay out such a sum on the rights alone indicates that international games could be packaged commercially widely in Australia.

But will it be? SBS has the rights for the 1990, 1994 and 1998 World Cups. They will do their usual excellent job, but the network, unfortunately, is limited by the restrictions on their signal.

Last year's Saulwick Poll, conducted on behalf of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, showed that 35% of the population of Sydney has an interest in Soccer.

Soccer has to tap into this type of potential.

With the Australian Broadcasting Corporation taking over National Soccer League cover, the Australian Soccer Federation and the League must follow up on simple game reporting with the ABC.

The match action certainly requires a midweek programme of news and profiles to lay the groundwork for the weekend showings.

On top of that, more has to be done in advising days and times of the sessions, and to improving the production.

It has been pointed out that when SBS began its cover it had none of its latter professionalism.

But the ABC programmes need to be quickly knocked into shape.

Alan Hunter (left), Wally Savor and Marshall Soper in action at the big Sydney Croatia — Olympic game last Sunday.

Goal feast

BY JOHN MANGAN

ROUND FOUR

[We regret due to a technical fault that this report had to be held over until this issue]

SIX of the best swung Melbourne Croatia to the top of the NSL ladder as they registered an emphatic 6-0 victory over Blacktown at Somers Street last Sunday *week.*

Before the partisan 4200-strong crowd which braved the heat and dust, Croatia's young stars Ian Kelic and Joe Caleta ran riot.

Kelic had notched a hat-trick by the 68th minute to lift him to the top of the NSL goalscorers' chart with six goals in four games.

Coach Ivan Raznjevic joined the club promising "total football" and on Sunday he delivered.

The game gave no indications of becoming a rout in the first half. At the interval, the score stood at 1-0 after defender Paul Donnelly picked up the ball from Biskic and raced forward.

Only two minutes later, Caleta charged down the wing and hit what appeared to be a cross. Blacktown keeper Steve Watson could only watch in dismay as the ball floated over his head into the net to give Croatia an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Kelic snared his hat-trick in the 68th minute when Caleta hit a square ball to Awaritefe whose shot rebounded off the crossbar onto the goal-line and bounced out where Kelic was waiting to pick up the crumbs.

Caleta was again involved in the fifth goal putting Biskic through the middle. Ice-cool, Biskic lobbed the ball over the advancing Watson.

The final nail in Blacktown's coffin came seven minutes from time when Caleta got the ball within his own half, stormed down the left and rentred to Awaritefe who made no mistake from *close* range.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Olver, Donnelly, Cannell, Valentic, Opasinis, Davidson, Milosevic, Biskic (Duzel 80), Caleta, Awaritefe, Kelic.

BLACKTOWN: Watson, Bennett, Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Odzakov, Divljak (Jee 54), Maier, McKinna (Gibson 54), Naumov, van Blerk.

Referee: John Fraser. Crowd: 4200.

That feud...

COMMENTING on the SBS position in regard to overseas football telecasts in Australia, ASF general secretary Alan Vessey said: "We have our advice on the matter and SBS' position is intact at present.

"However, we are considering and reassessing the position, and the ground rules will be changed.

"There is a requirement under the FIFA Statutes and we have been in contact with them in this matter."

SBS says . . .

PUBLISHED below is a transcript of Les Murray's comments on last Saturday's WORLD SOCCER concerning the latest development in the dispute between SBS-TV and the Australian Soccer Federation over Soccer television rights:

I wonder what your thoughts are on this program or, generally, on the SBS coverage of overseas Soccer.

Has it been beneficial or damaging to Soccer in Australia?

Well, if you approve of all this Soccer you've been getting, it seems the governing body of Soccer in Australia — the Australian Soccer Federation — may not agree with you.

Last week SBS received a letter from the ASF in which he ASF questions, if not directly threatens, the future of SBS's overseas coverage.

The letter relies on a FIFA regulation which, ostensibly, gives each domestic Soccer federation the right to veto or interfere with a TV network's coverage of foreign Soccer.

In part, the letter says: "In accordance with FIFA Statute 37 it will be necessary for the Special Broadcasting Service to obtain from the Australian Soccer Federation written permission to broadcast in Australia *any match originating outside this continent*, with the ASF exercising its right to determine whether or not a broadcast shall take place and under such conditions as it seems necessary. Any breach of the FIFA statute by an Australian broadcaster shall be reported immediately to FIFA."

As you may guess, FIFA has little say in what the SBS broadcasts or doesn't broadcast, although there IS such a FIFA regulation and for good reasons: it was inserted by FIFA in order to protect domestic football from cynical or unscrupulous broadcasters whose coverage of foreign Soccer might threaten the game locally.

The problem is that it appears the ASF has not read the regulation properly and it is wrong if it believes SBS has to seek permission FROM it before it can screen overseas matches.

The way the rule works is that the Association of the country from where the Soccer originates, has to seek permission from the association of the receiving country.

Article 37 of FIFA clearly says: "The Association from whose area of operation a transmission is being made is responsible that the Associations of the receiving countries are informed in good time. The implementation of this regulation is incumbent upon the host Association."

In other words if, for example, SBS was to buy Italian Soccer, it is up to the Italian Football Federation to inform the Australian Soccer Federation. The regulation places no responsibility on broadcasters whatsoever and is a rule simply to be observed by FIFA's member Associations.

Now all that is just an argument over how the FIFA statute is worded.

Much more disturbing is that the letter has been sent by the ASF at all, for it pre-supposes that SBS's generous quota of over*seas football is in some* way damaging to football in Australia.

And the ASF does have the tools to interfere with SBS's overseas coverage: it can try and influence FIFA, who in turn can lean, for example, on the Italian Soccer Federation.

And one possible outcome of that? No Italian Soccer, no Brazilian Soccer, no World Cup qualifiers, no European Cup . . . and no Diego Maradona.

Well, I wonder what your views are on that, and of course we'd be happy to hear from you.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Hellas' new signing from Brunswick Juventus, Mike Petersen, was on show but after a dazzling display midweek in the Buffalo Cup final, the national team midfielder looked tired.

Hellas fans and Socceroo fans alike will be looking forward to the prospect of Petersen forming an effective understanding withTrimboli.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Maclaren, Russell, Postecoglou, Fernandes, Blair, Healy, Foster (Micheil 64m), Petersen (Anezakis 82m), Trimboli, Wright, Mori.

MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, de Marigny, Calderan, Wheatley, Gomez, McCulloch, Katholos, Nastevski. de Jong (Gray 68m), Lowe (Colagiuri 64m).

Referee: D.Campbell. Crowd: 3500.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Joe Mullen got his revenge for a disallowed goal two minutes earlier when in the 12th minute he latched on to a pass from Gareth Naven, and had enough room to have two bites at controlling the ball before hitting a shot from the edge of the box past Sean Keogh into the bottom right corner of the net.

The South Australians sealed the victory with a second goal nine minutes from the end.

Maxwell raced in to steal the ball from John Waddell and sent Melta away with a first-time pass. Melta made ground, then cut the ball inside for Vial to score his first goal for Adelaide City.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh, Marth, Parton, Kotzamichalis, Ketsakidis, Faulkner (Lennon 68), Waddell, Maclaren, Carter, Lewis, Latif.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Naven, Flounders, Nyskohus, Tobin, Northcote, Melta, Vidmar, Mullen, Vial, Maxwell.

Referee: J.Santa Isabel. Crowd: 2000.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Bill Lazopoulos, who had only come in three minutes earlier for Vlade Tortevski, was on the spot to steer the ball past Steve Watson who had only partially blocked Luciano Fabrizio's shot.

Undaunted, Blacktown fought on and were rewarded with the go-ahead goal in the 72nd minute.

Odzarkov's outswinging corner kick found McKinna's head and the ball was met by Glenn Sterrey, who made no mistake from five metres out.

Three minutes from the end, Odzarkov iced the result for the home team when he blasted a drive into the top of the net after Ralph Maier's cross had first been misjudged by McKinna.

Full marks to referee Rob Davies for allowing the game to flow freely in what should be an example to all referees.

Blacktown were best served by stopper Kurt Reynolds who was imperial throughout and absolutely unbeatable in the air. McKinna and the creative Odzarkov also stood out.

Melbourne City, despite the talent in their line-up, again failed to live up to expectations and lacked their opponents' superior motivation.

Little wonder coach Ilja Domoski was unhappy after the game.

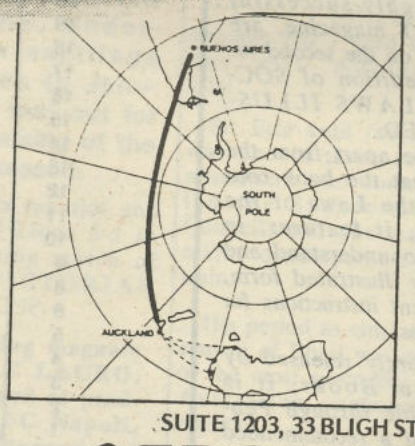
"I would throw the whole lot out if I could," he stated dejectedly.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson, Bennett, G.Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Odzarkov, Divljak (Naumov 36), Maier, McKinna, L.Sterrey, van Blerk (Welch 87).

MELBOURNE CITY JUST: Nikitovic, Fabrizio, Mitrovski, Durakovic, van Egmond, Murphy, Tapal,Tortevski (Lazopoulos 47), Palatsides, Crino, Dimoski.

Referee: R.Davies. Crowd: 1150.

ARGENTINAS



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MANLY FRESHWATER IN ACCORD

Manly Warringah and Warringah Freshwater strike a deal over joint use of the superb facilities of Cromer Park. At left is MW president Don Balmain (a regular ASW contributor in its early years) and WF's Ziv Naprta.

Disconsolate Steve Bryant

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THESE are lonely days for Steve Bryant.

The man who has long been at the centre of Soccer in Canberra is spending the hot mid-summer afternoons pounding a local park in solitary pursuit of fitness.

Bryant is no longer needed by Canberra Croatia, the club which, under its various names, he has served for seven years — longer than anyone else.

JIMMY SHOULDER

"I was told by the new coach, Jimmy Shoulder, in December that I was not part of his plans for the first team," he said.

"I have been given a free transfer and I am now open to offers, though it will be strange not turning out for Canberra this season after all this time."

"I feel fine for my age and I've reached the stage when I'm ready to put something back into the game.

At 35 he still felt he had a couple of good seasons in him.

"I've had talks with Inter Monaro, but there's nothing definite at this stage. If that falls through, I would look at playing in the ACT League."

But for the moment there is nothing to do except ensure that when the call comes — from whatever quarter — he is ready.

"I get home from work and head off to Chisholm Park. I do 40 minutes of distance running followed by shuttles, then I finish off with eight 50-metre sprints," Bryant said.

"I don't take a ball with me. I've no-one to play with."

A state of affairs that will surely not last much longer for one of the most experienced and competent defenders to have graced a Soccer field in the ACT.

Steve Bryant . . . not wanted?

LAST WEEK, on the Johnny Warren page, we presented an up-to-date research piece on player misdemeanours by Gary Power, FIFA referee and NSW Schools and Development Officer.

In this issue we include the related statics of both send-offs and cautions.

Power has plotted each category in both five and 15-minute time spans.

The bar graphs for send-offs in particular demonstrate a remarkable peaking of offences over the last 30 minutes.

COACHING SCENE IS HOTTING UP

AN outstanding coaching development will take place in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport from March 17/17 when former English First Division goalkeeper and 1986 Canadian World Cup coach Tony Waiters will be on hand to conduct a coaching instruction course.

In attendance will be coaches nominated by state directors who have the potential to be instructors.

From NSW those present will be Chris James, Alan Reneke, Arthur Jessup, John Frew and Mike Urukalo.

Richard Alagich was unable to attend due to other commitments, and a further coach will be selected.

NSW country regional coaches will be attending a revision course at Valentine Park on February 25/26.

The coaches concerned include Reneke (Western NSW), Jessup (Northern NSW), David Ahearn (Riverina) and Keith Healey (Hunter).

NSW Director of Coaching David Lee is introducing two new videos to ensure that the

BOOK REVIEW

Soccer Laws Illustrated

WHEN a book comes across your desk labeled "Officially approved and recommended by the Referees' Committee of FIFA", and you look inside and find a foreword by the late Sir Stanley Rous and a preface by Ken Aston, you take a close look at the author's name.

The name, of course, is Stanley Lover, who has been involved for many years as a FIFA referees' instructor.

His knowledge and experience as a Football League referee, referees' instructor on many continents (including Australia) and, in the past, contributor to the highly-successful SHOOT magazine, are passed on the second revised edition of SOCCER LAWS ILLUSTRATED.

Quite apart from the fact that the book contains the Laws of the Game, it features, in easy to understand and clearly illustrated form, excellent instructions for referees.

Recently released by Pelham Books, it is available through Penguin at a recommended retail price of $24.95.

— reviewed by GARY POWER

PENRITH SOCCER CLUB

COACH WANTED

Applications are now invited for
CLUB COACH

Minimum requirement would be Level 3 Coaching Certificate.

Terms of appointment will be negotiable.

Applications to be in writing and addressed to the:

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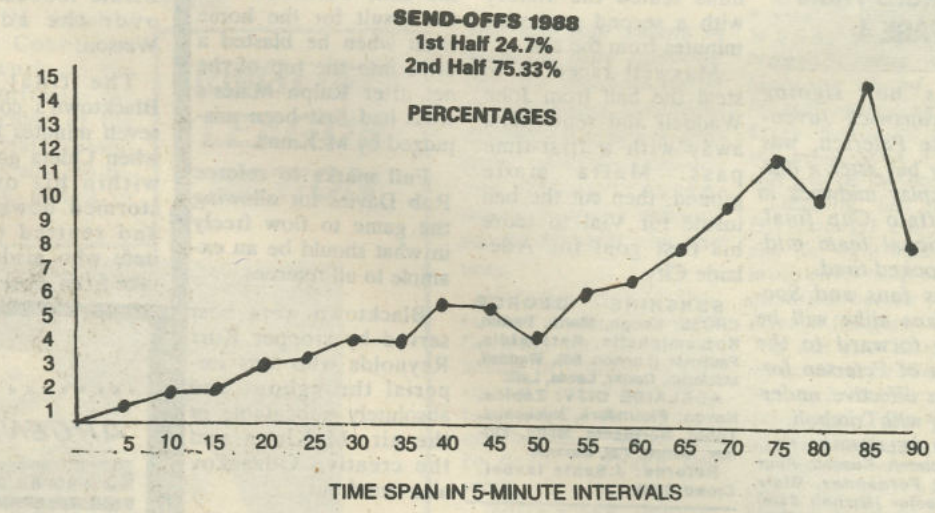
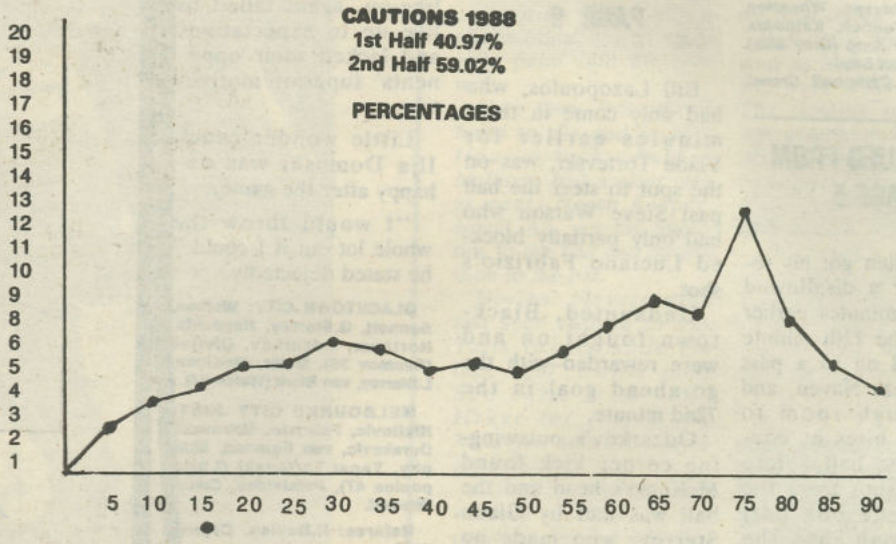
Penrith Soccer Club
P.O. 1010
Penrith NSW 2750

Enquiries only
Mr D. Perkins (B) 646 6711
(H) 047-36 2168

★ NSW Statistics on ★ Cautions and send-offs





INDOOR SOCCER

"BOOM BOOM" AKKARY — SYDNEY — BRAZIL — SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN Indooroos star Charles Akkary is Sydney born.

But, despite all the junior soccer in Sydney, it wasn't until he moved to Brazil at the age of ten that he began playing the game.

As a late starter, he found he was particularly successful in the indoor game.

There are 16 million registered indoor soccer players in Brazil. "That's the whole Australian population," Charles says.

When Charles returned to Sydney three years ago, he looked for ways to continue playing the sport.

He joined the National Indoor Soccer League, first as a player with the Parramatta Spartans and this year with the NIB Tornadoes.

He also wanted to continue to work in the shoe business. His family owned a shoe store in Brazil and he started working there when he was ten. Six months ago he came to Grace Bros as a sales assistant in shoes at Roselands. Charles was picked to represent Australia in the World Cup Indoor Soccer series.

When the tournament ended, Australia wound up in fifth place in the 16 team standings, a very respectable finish in a competition with such soccer powers as Brazil, Paraguay, Italy, England and Uruguay.

The previous year Charles was picked as a member of the Australian team that played in the Pacific Cup, against Mexico, Canada, the United States, Japan and New Zealand.

He scored eight goals in the tournament as Australia made it to the finals where they lost to Mexico.

"Indoor soccer is a faster game than outdoor soccer. In one split second you can kick a goal from one end of the field to the other," he said. He once kicked three goals in five minutes.

Charles is known as "Boom Boom" Akkary on the field, thanks to his powerful kicking. He has an unusual style, and only kicks with is left foot.

During the twelve years he lived in Brazil he had another nickname — Kangaroo — a name that fits him very well now that he has twice been a member of the Australian team.

"It's very thrilling to represent your country," said Charlie.

'TOP' CHAMPS

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

TOP Ryders' under 12 Indoor Soccer team are national champions for 1989.

The local team from the Gladesville Hornsby area in Sydney play their soccer at the Epping YMCA centre.

Having been together for three years, they've been State Champions in 1986 and runners- up in 1987, but the ultimate was yet to come, the national title.

The team travelled to Melbourne by bus and car, and departed Sydney at 2am and went through a gruelling 15-hour trip.

The sponsors of the team are Top Ryde Shopping Centre, which coincides with the name of the team. They helped them by supplying tracksuits and playing strips.

Coached by Richard Giometti, they reached the final with persistence and determination.

Winning five and drawing one of their six matches, the Ryders qualified to meet Belconnen United in the final.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw and needed to go into a penalty shoot-out which they took out 3-2 to achieve their ultimate aim, the national championship.

Unfortunately, three players won't be with the team next season but most of the key players are still with the side.

This year's winning team: Darren Hoefsmiet, David Burge, Fabio Franco, Chad Bartsch, Chris Giometti, Anthony Smith, James Weber.

NSW take National Indoor title

THE New South Wales men retained the National State Championships held at Moe (Latrobe Valley, Victoria) on Friday, 27th January when they beat Western Australia 2-0.

The NSW squad was hand picked from younger players by coach Bernie Duval, with a view to building co-ordination and gaining experience for future representative matches.

Teams in the competition were from Victoria, North Queensland, Western NSW, NSW Country (Group A), Queensland, Western Australia, Eastern Victoria and New South Wales (Group B).

In the preliminary round matches, NSW beat Eastern Victoria 3-1, Queensland 2-0 but lost 1-0 to the other eventual finalist, Western Australia.

In the semi-final against arch rivals, Victoria, the NSW team playing a very determined game beat the home state 3-1 to progress to the final.

Stefan Janic was the man of the match, sealing the game with a hat-trick but was very ably supported by his team mates.

The final against Western Australia was evenly poised early in the first half until Erkin Osman (1989 NISL Player of the Year) broke the deadlock when he scored in the seventh minute.

The two Blues continued to apply the pressure, but the Western Australian defence repelled the advances until the 18th minute when Erkin Osman scored again for his double and his sixth goal of the tournament.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1989 NATIONAL STATE CHAMPIONS

Back row: l to r: Bob Genner (manager), Steve Duval, Brett Duval, John White, Bernie Duval (coach — Parramatta Spartans), Stefan Janic (Win TV Warriors) Archie Kazas (trainer).

Front: Robbie Stuart (Captain — NIB Tornadoes), Gill Tour, Bruce Thurlow (Win TV Warriors), George Psaroudis, Erkin Osman, Ercan Osman (Parramatta Spartans). Absent: Scott Gilligan (Win TV Warriors).

A.C.T.S.F.

ACT shines at indoor

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE ACT had its most successful competition to date in the ninth Australian indoor soccer championship in Victoria, with state and club teams contesting 13 grand finals.

Seven reached grand finals with the winners being the 12-year-old boys coached by Wally Conlon and managed by Malcom Billington; the 14-year-old boys (Ken Richardson and Graham Fulton); the 17-year-old boys (Ivan Jadric and Jason Swan).

The 12 boys game between the ACT and NSW went into extra-time where the winning goal came from a free-kick by Leo Langone. Calum Dickson had an excellent game in goal with Greg Daglis, Scott Conlon, Neal Russell and Bobbie Rice also playing well.

The ACT teams that finished runners-up were 13, 15 and 19 boys and 15 girls.

In the 15 girls, the ACT met Queensland in the final. The ACT's Joanne Connors had a goal disallowed in the first half and it was only with two minutes of extra-time remaining, that the Queenslanders broke through for the only score of the game.

Apart from Connors, Katrina Rolls, Vicki Turner and Tracy Carr were the outstanding ACT players.

Belconnen United was the top performer in the club championships held on the Saturday and Sunday.

Of United's six teams, four reached the grand final of their respective age groups, winning one title — 17 boys — and narrowly losing the 12 boys on penalties; the 13 boys by the odd goal in five and the 15 girls 2-0.

The girls' performance was particularly creditable as the team had only begun competitive play in November and consisted mainly of 12 and 13-year-olds.

A fairytale ending was prevented by its grand final opponent, the Moe City Foxes, entirely composed of Australian international players.

Even so, United can take heart in a series of outstanding individual performances, none better than that of 13-year-old striker Connors who scored 20 goals in 12 games.

The Kick Cats from Tuggeranong managed to fight through to the 17 girls final despite a number of injuries, only to lose 3-1 to a strong Sydney team.

The weekend's triumphs were completed when Charlie King's Apollo team beat the much-fancied Fairfield City Dynamos 1-0 after extra-time thanks to an oopoportunist goal from Pat Cosentini.

20 YEARS AGO

☐ GEORGE KASTNER clinched a first team berth in goal for George Cross, making his debut in the Ampol Cup tie against Slavia at Olympic Park.

■ **Disastrous news for Tottenham: their $300,000 signing from Southampton, MARTIN CHIVERS, underwent a cartilage operation in January and was out for the remaining of the English season.**

■ Croatia ran riot and swamped Lions 5-1 in the opening match of the VICTORIAN AMPOL CUP.

☐ **Shipping magnate ACHILLE LAURO, 82, returned as president of FC Napoli, whose international affairs were chaotic during his 16-month "retirement".**

Sir Eric lends a hand

BROKEN HILL

SIR ERIC NEAL, recently appointed chairman of WESTPAC had a keen interest in Soccer.

Rudolph Alagich, longtime Soccer identity in Broken Hill, recalls with great affection Sir Eric's days as president of the Broken Hill Soccer Football Association in the late 50s and early 60s.

"In 1959, with Sir Eric in the chair, we changed the Broken Hill clubs from ethnic to district names and Soccer went ahead from there," he said.

"Later I believe he became No 1 card holder with Adelaide City."

Sir Eric until recently was one of three commissioners who controlled the Sydney City Council, and put many major developments in train.

His period as chief executive of Boral was one of the most successful in Australian corporate history.

In addition he holds a host of directorships with many of Australia's leading companies.

Thanks to the labor made available when the RED scheme was in force, Broken Hill possesses a Soccer complex which would be virtually unequalled throughout the entire Commonwealth.

Mr Alagich said: "Soccer is stronger than other codes amongst the juniors in Broken Hill.

"Unfortunately the lack of jobs in the city sends many young people away to the big cities for employment and university education.

"Broken Hill's population peaked at 31,000 and is now 26,000.

"In their heyday the mines employed 8000 — now it is down the 1400."

But, Mr Alagich avows, Broken Hill would dearly like to stage a National Junior Soccer Championships.

They hold very successful carnivals, drawing teams from Adelaide and other centres, so the infrastructure is already in place.

— KEITH GILMOUR

COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ROUND 6

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

Melbourne Croatia	v	Sydney Croatia	Somers St 5.30pm
Melb City JUST	v	St George	Schintler Res 5.30pm
Marconi	v	Apia Leichhardt	Marconi Stad 7.30pm

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

Wollongong City	v	Sunshine GC	Brandon Park 5pm
Heidelberg	v	Blacktown City	Olympic Vil. 5.30pm
Sydney Olympic	v	Preston Mak	St George Stad 7pm
Adelaide City	v	South Melbourne	Hindmarsh Stad 7.30pm

COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ASF and NSL take notice

BY ALEX VESIC

Danny Thomas, one of the best defenders in England in the last decade, will no longer grace the turf at White Hart Lane, the home of Tottenham Hotspurs, or for that matter ony other ground in Britain or the world.

His career ended after a tackle by Gavin Maguire of Queens Park Rangers.

"I rolled over and saw the bottom half of my leg had just about pulled away from the top half. It was just held together by skin," said Thomas, soon after he was taken to hospital following that nasty tackle in midfield during the QPR v Tottenham encounter.

Thomas filed a $1.5 milion lawsuit against tackler Maguire.

Lawyers and sport officials warn it will be the first in a flurry of law suits should Danny Thomas succeed.

The next case may be brought by a rugby player whose neck was broken by an unlawful tackle or by an Aussie rules player whose neck was broken by an opponent using an unlawful advantage or a boxer who was incapacitated after being hit below the belt and after the bell!

Edward Grayson, a London attorney specialising in sport law, said that such cases were symptomatic of increasingly brutal attitudes by a variety of sportsmen, who lacked skill or speed but had a large appetite for those who had above average abilities.

Sure, one must expect an odd knock or two playing football rugby, or cricket.

Some might even suffer an enormous dent to their egos after losing a game of chess... but this article is not designed to dwell on those who played and lost, but to point out an area of brutality within our own code that must be eradicated before someone starts looking for an attorney who specialises in sport law.

Video Replays

In order to clean our game of the thuggery which is evident by the number of yellow cards issued in the early rounds of the 1989 season, the ASF and NSL must quickly take action to remedy the situation.

In the past we simply blamed the referees for everything that went on in an NSL or State League match.

There were those who believed that our players were not good enough to provide entertainment, hence the prevailing physical attitudes.

Refereeing inconsistencies were also blamed for development of rough play.

"There area a couple of referees in the NSL who will let you get away with murder as long as they abide by the advantage rule.

"If you knock one or two opposing players but they retain posession, he (the referee) will simply play on," a leading player commented recently.

"Another will use his whistle at the slightest hint of foul play".

We also have referees inspectors at the ground but most seem to be more concerned about hairline decisions, like was the ball in or out when the throw-in was given, rather then what actually this or that referee did to let the game flow in an orderly fashion.

In the last couple of seasons, officials of the NSW and Queensland Rugby Leagues have used video replays to determine the truth in a number of send-offs, mainly to determine the jersey numbers of those who intentionally break the laws of the game attempting to maim opponents.

Punishment of two weeks to three years have already been meted out, and the crowds are starting to fill the grounds once again.

The game is being cleaned up and fans realise that the time was right for all and sundry to pay the price at the gate because of guaranteed quality rather than thuggery.

In the opening round of the NSL competition it seams a player at St George Stadium 'waltzed' on Marshall Soper's head as he lay on the ground.

Zlatko Nastevski, another marked man, was flattened without the ball at Chaplin Reserve.

Yet his assailant went scot-free while the Marconi playmaker was attended to by the team doctor.

Soper could have suffered severe head injuries. Nastevski could have had a broken leg.

These are just two examples of an injury that could have resulted in a landmark trial which would make legal history in Australia.

Unless some action is taken soon, the 'executioners' in the NSL are going to continue indulging in their primate pleasures.

SBS and ABC are providing enough tape at the moment for officials to have a field day.

If you could determine without a doubt that there was an intent to harm, then throw the book at them.

Common thuggery is not tolerated in the streets, so why do we have to allow it on the football field?

Lengthy suspensions may not cure all our ills, but they would clean up our game and bring more people through the turnstiles.

Beware of those who call football a "man's game" — those who in defence of "executioners" declare that a "little bit of rough stuff" never hurt anyobody.

They are the ones who are promoting the type of football you and I are certainly not very keen to see.

Please don't forget the most recent complaint by the disillusioned Newcastle United supporter who reported his favourite club to the Trading Standards Office for failing to provide entertainment.

He lost his appeal but is no longer going to watch Newcastle.

We must woo back to the stadiums those we call the converted.

Then we can go to the market place to encourage new followers to the game.

Provide the show, clean up your act and protect those who are going to dazzle us with their skills!

ASF and NSL, the ball is in your court.

You are to sign a deal with the Victorian Health Foundation Fund.

Show them just how much you are interested in the health of those who play the game.

Tottenham's Danny Thomas: seeking $1 million damages.

BALMAIN SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

Players for the 1989 Season.
Good reliable players invited to trial for the State Federation League sides.

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(AH) 810 0158

NEWCASTLE TO THE RESCUE!

FRANK Arok has again asked Newcastle to assist in the preparation of the Socceroos in their quest to reach the 1990 World Cup finals.

And, once again, the North has obliged by fielding a Newcastle Austral Select XI against the national team at Austral Park, Birmingham Gardens, on Wednesday, March 1.

Kick-off will be at 7pm.

It is a tribute to Newcastle that Frank Arok chose to play another game in the north.

After the pre-Olympic game last August, he was quick to praise the Austral club on giving his players an excellent workout prior to leaving for Seoul.

The Socceroos and Australs have agreed to donate proceeds from the game to the NBN 3 Telethon 1989.

NORTHERN NSW

Toyota sponsors referees

THE Northern NSW Division of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation have landed a three year sponsorship deal with Cardiff Toyota.

This resulted from negotiations between Referees' secretary Milton Pollock and the manager of Cardiff Toyota, Paul Janus during 1988.

Mr Janus has agreed to a three year sponsorship deal in excess of $6,000.

In return the referees will wear the CARDIFF TOYOTA logo on the back of their shirts in all matches played under the banner of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation Ltd.

During the ceremony in which Mr Janus handed over the first of three cheques to the Federation, he expressed his delight in joining the men in black.

FROM BILL TURNER

On hand to accept the cheque was Referees President Alf Rodway, Secretary Milton Pollock and Treasurer Kevin Elliott.

Mr Rodway thanked Mr Janus, and assured him that the money would be used to assist in training, coaching referees and to conduct seminars during the 1989 season.

The logos are currently being distributed to all referees and will be on show the next few weeks.

Game crying out for more colour

BY MIKE JOHNSON

HAVING seen seven teams play in a couple of weeks of early-season National League games, it is worthwhile to discuss their prospects and that of some key players.

APIA, in their third outing of the season, looked fit as, in the second half, they outpaced Melbourne Croatia at Lambert Park.

On the other hand, APIA's defensive frailty against three fast strikers — Caleta, Awaritefe and Kelic — conceded four goals, and that was too much to pull back against Wollongong Wolves and that defensive shakiness was there then.

It mainly concerned the central defenders Steve O'Connor and Mirko Radosavljevic, whose talents are not complementing one another, which is posing a problem to coach Mike Urukalo.

Urukalo is an experienced conditioner, now taking the full reigns as a coach. He has produced excellent fitness at APIA, especially evident in Craig Mason.

Craig had a splendid second half against the Melbourne team, which faded badly. This player is extremely capable, winning the ball and passing it from midfield.

Perhaps the Urukalo fitness drive will spark John Kosmina and bring the reflexes and general speed of movement that all strikers need.

Melbourne Croatia have good strikers and other notable players in Jeff Olver, George Hannah, Alan Davidson and Josip Biskic.

Davidson is a very fine player. Along with Oscar Crino, possibly our best two players.

Wollongong Wolves have their usual organised, disciplined outfit, but have attacking problems

This is a well-coached team, highly competitive, knows what it is about, and has a good-looking, young midfield talent in Mineo Bonnetig.

I was also impressed by former fullback, skipper Skeen, in midfield, and Jock Morlando at central defence.

Against St George, Morlando looked a better player than his opposite number, national team sweeper Andy Koczka.

Koczka has a lot of ability, but so has Morlando, who has been a fine utility player in a successful Wolves team for several years.

Jock is now in his best position, and will create a big impression during this season.

In another St George game, South Melbourne's Paul Trimboli was poorly marked and made Saints pay for it. Paul is good and so is Saints' Scott Ollerenshaw.

I also liked Oscar Crino for Melbourne JUST against Marconi, not just his deft touches and beautifully timed passes, but his attitude.

He seems to have added a new element there as a disciplined, committed team player.

Marconi are full of flair and skill on the ball, but seem to need more players with the drive and attitude of Steve Calderan.

Coach Berti Mariani has studied psychology (the science of the mind). Perhaps he can again spark a championship-winning attitude in his players, to help overcome the severe loss of hard man Tony Henderson and star striker Frank Farina.

A friend of mine watched APIA play Sydney Olympic and said the teams kicked bits out of one another.

Certainly there are some hard players currently in the APIA team, but Eddie Thompson has talent in his ranks.

Marshall Soper and Peter Raskopoulos have something to prove this year.

I have so far seen many useful "young" Soccer players in our National League but no Vieris, Martons or, going back even further, Baumgartners or Kellys.

These were great, experienced overseas players who brought colour and excitement to our games.

With Harry Michaels gone, who is going to bring us the international flavour and talent to add extra colour and lift our top Soccer?

WADE COMEBACK

PAUL WADE is gradually making his way back after suffering his groin injury.

Recently he has been going through all playing motions, without taking on opponents.

Voted the 1988 Rothmans Award winner and the Coaches' Player of the Year in the ASW poll, he will be welcomed back to the Socceroo ranks as soon as he is fit.

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

REGISTERED OFFICE: 482 Meurants Lane, Parklea 2148
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 175, Toongabbie 2146
TELEPHONE: Direct 629 2833, 629 2399, Switch 629 1800 Fax 629 3770

Nepean's record of progress

BY BRAD EARL

THE growth of the Nepean District Soccer Football Association has matched the incredible growth of Sydney's outer western region during the past three decades.

Now in its 28th year, the NDSDFA serves three local government areas — Penrith, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains.

Many people who have become involved with Soccer in the Nepean district in recent years would not be aware that the association's area orginally extended to the Blacktown district, which is now an association in its own right.

George Churchward

Peter Bennett — represented Australia at the recent World Youth Cup qualifying series in Syria. (Photo courtesy Penrith Press).

Formed at a public meeting, chaired by the then Mayor of Penrith, the late Alderman W.L. Chapman, on November 9, 1961, Arthur Robinson was elected as president and Pat Henry as secretary.

It is interesting to note that the inaugural treasurer was George Churchward, who served on the NDSFA management committee until 1987 in various roles, including president, and is now in his 20th year as treasurer of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

The NDSLA's success during the past 27 winters is a credit to the stability of its administrtion, which presently is headed by long-serving president Lee Kol and secretary Barbara Horley.

In the first playing season — 1967 — there were 11 clubs, 38 teams and 531 players.

By comparison, in 1988 there were 37 clubs, 362 teams (not including mini-Soccer teams) and almost 6500 players.

The Nepean Association expanded streadily throughout the 1960s and 1970s as new clubs were formed to serve the main areas of population growth in Sydney's west.

There were 517 teams in 1978 so the State body decided to form a new association and 143 teams in the Blacktown area became part of the new Blacktown Association.

Since then, the Nepean Association has grown in other areas and there is no doubt that it will continue to expand as new estates are opened up to provide housing for young families.

Unfortunately, this huge district is no longer served by a senior club under the auspices of the NSW Soccer Federation.

Although a State League First Division club, Penrith Uruguay, plays at the Association's well-appointed headquarters at Cook Park, St Marys, it is not truly representative of the Nepean District.

The history of Federation clubs in the Penrith area is marked by failures.

However, in 1984 and 1985 there was a valiant attempt to bring top Soccer to the district when the now-defenct Penrith City club played in the National Soccer League.

A player who established himself in the NSL wth Penrith City during those two years has gone on to become a Socceroo — Mike Gibson, presently reserve goalkeeper in the Australian squad.

Other former Nepean juniors have represented Australia in the World Youth Championship — Ian Hunter (1981), Tommy McCulloch and Paul Daley (1983) and this year, Peter Bennett.

Hunter and McCulloch had the added honour of captaining their country in WYC final series.

All these players were products of the Nepean district's representative ranks and have set a great example for more young players to emulate their achievements in the years to come.

The new referee

Theory and field tests

THE Australian Affiliated Soccer Referees Federation NSW Division, is a mouth full!

It is even longer when we tack a branch name at the end.

To keep it simple we like to refer to it as the "Double A".

The organisation, through the national body, is affiliated to the Australian Soccer Referees Federation which is tied to the Australian Soccer Federation.

It is through these affiliations that our referees are offered the chance of the ultimate goal for all referees — the privilege of wearing the FIFA badge.

But let's get back to where it all starts and that is at one of our many Branches.

People and each Branch arranges classes for new referees to suit their situations.

But the one thing that is common is that they will be preparing referees to sit for the same theory examination that every new referee right across Australia will sit for.

This is because the theory examination papers are pepared by the national referees body, the ASRF.

Despite what some players and spectators might have you believe, those referees you see each week have had to sit throuyh lectures and to pass examination.

Candidates are taken through the 17 Laws of the Game over a number of classes and then they are required to answer a series of questions on the Laws.

There, already some of you have learnt something. Soccer has Laws that the game is played to.

The entrance exam is a series of multiple choice questions.

Completing the theory is stage 1 and it doesn't make you a referee.

The next stage is to go out onto a field and show an inspector just how well you are able to put into practice the things you have learnt in theory.

This is part of becoming a referee and is called the field test or field assessment.

In most cases the early experience as a referee is on junior games.

No matter how old the new referee is, he or she should never feel that junior games are beneath them as they offer a very valuable chance to develop their latent ability.

The top referees at this stage, Gary Power and Richard Lorenc and others, have nearly all started their refereeing careers on junior games and over many years have worked their way to the top.

The refereeing of junior Soccer is a vital role of the Division. Next week we will look at our role as we try to meet the needs of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation and its branches.

If you would like more information on becoming a Referee just complete the form and sent it in.

— RON BEAUMONT

The coach's code

THE successful coach invests more in the well-being and interests of the players than in their win-loss record.

1. Be reasonable in your demands on the young players' time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
3. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just-average" players need and deserve equal time.
5. Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
6. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
7. The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a physican when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
10. Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved, and set a good example.
11. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

CHILDREN'S ADVICE TO ADULTS:

- ☆ **Don't yell so much**
- ☆ **Teach us more**
- ☆ **Give us involvement**
- ☆ **Let kids express themselves**
- ☆ **Don't play favourites**
- ☆ **Encourage us more**

South Wallsend in Queens Birthday Soccer weekend

NEWCASTLE's South Wallsend Junior Soccer Club is promising all-comers a great Soccer event over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend in June.

Special competitions will be held for youngsters in under 10, 11 and 12 years age groups.

South Wallsend would welcome visiting teams from any part of NSW — City or country.

The games will be held at the Walker Soccer Fields/Elermore Vale Park, 129 Croudace Rd, Elermore Vale.

An initial response can be made as soon as possible to 049 515 167, 512 548 or 515 018, with April 30 the date for final acceptances.

Teams from outside Newcastle can camp in the big clubhouse, and each person attending should bring along a sleeping bag, pillow and towel.

South Wallsend will be erecting army marquees for dining room purposes, whilst kitchen facilities (separate from the canteen), courtyard BBQ, male and female toilets and showers are available.

The club has 386 registered junior and senior women's teams and is 20 years old.

With voluntary labour and a total grant of $50 000 from the local council and the Sports and Recreation Department South Wallsend erected their clubhouse/community centre in five months.

It will certainly be a big asset come June.

WORLD CUP

ASIA: Group 1 — Jordan v Qatar 1-1, Iraq v Oman 3-1, Iraq v Jordan 4-0, Qatar v Oman 3-0. Group 3 — United Arab Emirates v Kuwait 1-0, Kuwait v Pakistan 2-0.

AFRICA: Group 3 — Angola v Nigeria 2-2.

EUROPE: Group 5 — Cyprus v Scotland 2-3. Group 6 — Northern Ireland v Spain 0-2.

MALMO IN HONG KONG

MALMO FF defeated Hong Kong 3-0 in their second match of the four-team Chinese New Year tournament.

The Swedes' first game was drawn 0-0 with China and as we went to press they had just completed their programme against Odense of Denmark.

FREE ADMISSION TICKET

for junior and schools players up to under 16

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 8PM

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Iserief injured

Grievious blow for Oceania Cup

BY GRAHAM COOKE

AUSTRALIA'S all time leading scorer in womens' soccer, Renaye Iserief, has counted herself out of the Australia team to take part in the Oceania Cup in Brisbane.

Iserief contacted AWSA officials saying there was no longer any reasonable chance of her being match fit in time for the eight-team competition, which will kick off on March 26.

She has been out of soccer since an ankle reconstruction operation last year and missed the 1988 national chanpionships in Newcastle,

Iserief, 25, said she will now concentrate on club soccer in an attempt to regain full fitness during the coming season.

She has been replaced by Katrina Barsby, once a Northern NSW colleague of Iserief, who now lives in Alice Springs.

The 19-year-old has scored six goals for the Australian youth team, including two against the touring Massachusets state side last year.

Two NSW members of the Australian B team squad have also withdrawn. They are Kim Roe (19) and Margaret Young, who have been replaced by Queenslanders Raeanne Dower amd Nella Bertoncini.

AWSA executive director Heather Reid said she had received information fron India confirming its entry.

"Apparently they took a train-on squad into a 30-day training camp in Bihar during November from which they selected 22 players," Reid said.

Since then a further six have been added following domestic cup competitions.

That 28 will go into another 30-day camp in February and March from which it will select its final 16.

One of Australia's toughest opponents will be New Zealand, which announced a squad of 20 from which it will select its final 16.

Included is Lesley King, Canadian-born and a softball international who coach Dave Boardman describes as one of the safest goalkeepeers he has ever seen.

Other players to watch are Alison Grant, the most experienced member of the squad who visited Canberra while representing NZ Universities in 1985, and top striker Wendy Sharpe.

The New Zealand squad is; A.Crawford, V.Robertson, A.Grant, W.Henderson, W.Sharpe, L.Letcher, M.Van de Helzen, M.Jacobson, D.Pullen, K.Lord, P.Sullivan, J.Simpson, L.King, A.Smith, J.Bradley, L.Taylor, J.Campbell, V.Smith, D.Baker, Coach D.Boardman, assistant coach N.Watkins, physio-therapist M.Curly, liaison E.Pritchard, tour leader L.Boomer, executive member J.Lee.

Besides the two Australian teams, India and New Zealand, Oceania champion Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia and Hong Kong have indicated they will take part.

OCEANIA WOMENS FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

India prepares

INDIA is leaving no stone unturned in its bid to succeed in the third Oceania Cup.

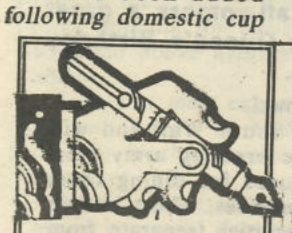
The series will be contested in Brisbane next month, with seven nations having indicated their acceptance.

AWSA executive director Heather Reid said she had received information from the subcontinent confirming its entry.

"Apparently, they took a train-on squad for a 30-day camp in Bihar during November, from which they selected 22 players," Reid said.

Since then, a further six have been added following domestic competitions. Those 28 will go into another 30-day camp in February and March from which the final 16 will be selected.

Besides the two Australian teams and India, Oceania champions Taiwan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia and Hong Kong have announced they will take part.



LETTERS

Write to ASW Letters, PO Box 406 Broadway, NSW 2007.

Please restrict letters to a maximum of 150 words and preferably typed, if not neatly hand-written.

TRIMBOLI FAN

I buy your Soccer paper every week and really enjoy reading it.

Recently I noticed that you did some player profiles and thought it was a great idea.

Since I'm a great fan of South Melbourne Hellas, I was wondering if you could feature a profile of Hellas' star player, Paul Trimboli.

I'm pretty sure a lot of people will be pleased.

Stella Aigitis
Melbourne

[A great choice, Stella. We'll aim to oblige. — Ed]

NO JOY

I write to you as an ardent Soccer follower, having been involved for many years as player, coach, manager and administrator at various levels of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, Southern Branch and its Far South Coast Soccer Association and also at club level.

Staying at Parklea for the Oceania U/16 knockout tournament, I went on Australia Day to St George Stadium to see the Apia v Sydney Olympic match in both U/19 and NSL grades.

I must point out at this stage that this was the first time for me to have actually been "on site" for such an occasion.

Living in the country, and television broadcasts as they are, does not afford us the opportunity as readily as capital city followers to witness the "big games" of Australian Soccer.

Having waited half an hour, spent three and a half hours in the Stadium and upon conclusion being parked in for nearly an hour — all that after paying $7 at the gate — I came to the conclusion that I just had spent one of the most unenjoyable afternoon/evenings for many a year.

I consider the toilet facilities at the Stadium a disgrace and insufficient control of the departing traffic in the ample parking area caused a massive traffic jam.

Now to the Soccer, the actual reason for this letter.

Of the 180 odd minutes of games watched, perhaps 10 to 15 minutes were of the standard I expected teams of this calibre to produce.

Both games were spiteful and embarrassingly unentertaining. It will take some convincing to drag me to see another game at this level. Give me a youth game any time.

I cannot see the Federation selling Soccer to the average Australian, who will readily reject the sort of play I was subjected to.

Karl Posselt
P.O. Box 98
Merimbula 2548

[This a copy of a letter addressed by Mr Posselt to the NSL. — Ed]

AIS just in time

THE AIS returned to the League last weekend and came from behind twice to snatch a last minute win over Blacktown with Greg Dickinson snaring two goals.

BLACKTOWN 2 AIS 3

The Demons fought all the way against a classy Institute side and twice held the lead. The first from Scott McArdle in the 30th minute was the only goal of a scrappy first half.

The second period was of much higher standard with plenty of goals and better football, AIS equalising following a good move through Greg Dickinson (90m) in the 65th minute.

From the kick-off Berry shot Blacktown back in front from 15 metres but George Sorras (80m) and Greg Dickinson (90m) scored for AIS to give the visitors the points.

BLACKTOWN: Londos, Cutler (Shipley), Comerford, McArdle, Berry, Connolly, Casserly, Jee, Gibson, Bourke (Reid), Suman.

AIS: Mautone, Rochow, Stanton (Kolibe), Wells, Suk, Dickinson, Sorras, Kindter, Cranney, Keegan (Eldridge), Trajonovski.

GEORGE 0 MARCONI 0

Marconi surrendered their perfect record and the lead when they were held to a scoreless draw at Saints Stadium last Friday.

St George held the ascendancy in the first 20 minutes with Brett Hughes pulling off two fine saves to keep Marconi level and the sides were deadlocked at the break.

St George went back into their shell in the second half but chances for Vanegas, Ienco and Lovan were wasted for Marconi and the game frittered out to the draw.

ST GEORGE: Filan, Green, Morakeas, Kakaklos, Pasito, Harmat, Gallstone, Tresslder.

MARCONI: Hughes, Carlucclo, Suzer, P. Okon, Charlewood, Colucci, Budini (Lopes), Lovan, Ienco, K. Okon, Vanegas.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

CROATIA 0 OLYMPIC 4

While Olympic were taking over at the top, Croatia crashed to the bottom after their fourth straight loss at home last Sunday.

It was all one way traffic as Olympic opened up a 2-0 half-time lead through Mick Lardis and Peter Fragakis with Fragakis' effort a 30-metre screamer into the top corner.

Craig Sharpley finally put the game beyond Croatia in the 82nd minute and Lardis added his second for good measure three minutes from time.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling, Triantafilou, Georgakis, Barrett, Scott, Hrist, Fragakis, Sharpley, Lardis, Bennett, Refenes.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Krajnovic, Orlic, Milnac, Cerjak, Milicevic, Zelic, Clantar, Rancic, Alilovic, Searl, Leatherbarrow.

APIA 2 ADAMSTOWN 1

APIA picked up their first points and first goals of the season at Lambert Park last Saturday, Peter Murray netting the home side's first.

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

After leading 1-0 at the break, Leichhardt scored again through Tony Franze before Paul Coutts replied for the Rosebuds.

ADAMSTOWN: Symes, Milovski, Williams, Jonas (Roberts) Coutts, Hudson (Orton), Richards, Devine, Woweries, Bell, Webb.

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

NEXT WEEK'S MATCHES
ROUND 5
Sat 18 Feb: Marconi v Apia at Marconi Stadium 5.30pm
Sun 19 Feb: Adamstown v Blacktown at Adamstown Oval 5pm
Olympic v AIS at St George Stadium 5.30pm
Wollongong v St George at Brandon Park 3.45pm

Olympic	5	4	1	0	18	2	9
Marconi	5	4	1	0	9	3	9
Wollongong	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
St George	5	1	2	2	3	8	4
APIA	4	1	1	2	2	4	3
AIS	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Blacktown	4	1	0	3	7	10	2
Adamstown	5	1	0	4	4	10	2
Croatia	5	1	0	4	4	12	2

ST GEORGE 0 MARCONI 0, APIA 2 (Murray, Franze) ADAMSTOWN 1 (Coutts), AIS 3 (Dickinson 2, Sorras) BLACKTOWN 2 (McArdle, Berry), OLYMPIC 4 (Lardis 2, Fragakis, Sharpley) CROATIA 0.

Apia boys in Argentina

APIA Leichhardt's under 11 team has just returned from a successful tour of Argentina.

It is the first time that such a young team has played in Argentina, the birthplace of Diego Maradona.

The idea started with Carlos Panetta, the president of APIA Juniors Soccer Club, who was born in Mendoza, Argentina.

Together with coach Manuel Sevares, also born in Argentina, they took the team on a tour they will never forget.

The trip started on December 23; first stop was Los Angeles where they visited places like Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm and Universal Studios.

After a week in the United States, they arrived in Mendoza, Argentina, on December 30 after crossing the Andes Mountains by bus.

Then, for five weeks they toured Argentina, winning two competitions.

They visited Mendoza, Buenos Aires, Mar Del Plata and other Argentine towns, playing Soccer in most of them.

They met players from professional teams like Boca Juniors, River Plate, Newell's Old Boys (1988 Argentine champions) and Rosario Central.

They also visited the stadiums, and in some cases were able to go into the trophy rooms and have pictures taken with officials of the club.

During the tour, the "Young Socceroos" were able to play teams like Rosario Central, Independiente, Andes Talleres, Argentinos Juniors and San Telmo.

Friendship was encouraged, and before every game the Apia boys would give the other team players a boomerang and a banner with their name and address so they could exchange letters in the future.

They were surprised by our speed and our boys were amazed at the South Americans' precocious skills. There were a few "Maradonas" in the Argentine sides, even at such a young age.

The young players who went on to tour were: Christian Echeverria, Shay Lena, Thomas Panayi, Daniel Kerti, Frank Sinko, Paul Oehlmann, Chad Gibson, Daniel Ortiz, Gaston Montivero, Max Sevares, David Panetta, Terry Panayi and Diego Dominguez.

Coaches were Manuel Sevares and Carlos Panetta. They were assisted by Terry Panayi, Chris Kongonis and Adrian Ortiz.

Other trips are planned in the future to South America and Europe.

In the meantime, everything is back to normal at APIA Juniors with the building up of their junior teams.

— CARLOS PANETTA

DID YOU KNOW?

— That in 1967 Australia had competed *in a six-nation* tournament in Saigon and were unbeaten?

They defeated New Zealand 5-3, South Vietnam 1-0, Singapore 5-1, Malaysia 1-0 in the semi-final, and South Vietnam 3-2 in the final on South Vietnam's National Day.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The opening is there if Australia want it.

The developing Australian team last played in the Cup in 1987, when they bowed out of the final to hosts South Korea in the final on penalty kicks.

After the success in having Winfield generously withdraw its rights to Socceroo sponsorship to 1990 and securing the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation in a deal that will produce $1.6 million per annum for five years, the Australian Soccer Federation has to keep its priorities moving ahead.

One problem fast coming up for a solution is how to protect the under 16 Joeys from being decimated by overseas scouts when they are in Scotland for the World under 16 finals tournament in June.

Australia has some marvellous junior talent, and it must be allowed to mature right at home in Australia.

ALEXEI MIKHAILICHENKO — currently the most highly — rated player in the USSR. Will his future be affected by the restructuring of Soviet football?

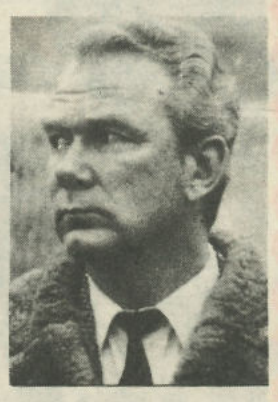
Stalemate at the top in the USSR

THE annual general meeting of the Soviet Soccer Federation, which was supposed to discuss a new status for the sport, turned out to be a contest between the reformers and the bureaucrats, according to WORLD SOCCER, to whom we are grateful for the following paragraphs.

All the draft proposals put forward by the Soviet Sports Ministry contained nothing new and provoked massive correspondence in the Press with protests that nobody was being fooled by officialdom's attempts to retain the status-quo in the guise of *perestroika*!

The civil servants are anxious to maintain their fingers in the sports pie but their retrograde attitudes have been publicly criticised in the newspapers and they seem unlikely to get away with it in the current mood of reform.

The fear is that if Soccer does its own thing within a new and independent, self-financing,



Valery Lobanovsky

structure, all the other sports will seek to follow and there will be nothing for the sports officials in the Ministry in Moscow to do.

The first to speak out for reform was Nikolai Starostin, the grand old man of Soviet Soccer, a co-founder of Spartak Moscow in the 1930s, now aged 86.

He was followed by Dynamo Moscow and national team coach Valery Lobanovsky, a firm protagonist of federalism who said there was so little in the Sports' Ministry plan that he could not see what there was to discuss.

After more long-winded speeches by lesser identities, there was a stalemate between the two factions and the sole outcome was agreement to the creation of a union in the near future.

The strange feature of the meeting was that five First Division clubs were not represented, but it was clear there was no support for the Ministry's plan.

The revolution continues . . .

The Wide World of Football

BY LOU GAUTIER

Eintracht Frankfurt, of West Germany, appointed Jorg Berger as their third coach of the season — after Kalli Feldkamp and Pal Csernai.

★★★

Jimmy McLean, the controversial Dundee United chairman, has also been appointed chairman of the *Scottish* club.

★★★

Deposed Brazilian national team coach Carlos Alberto da Silva, is serving a suspension for attacking referee Oliveira Filho after a 1-1 draw between his team, Cruzeiro, and Botafogo.

★★★

Dalymount Park, the home ground of Bohemians, has been bought by the Irish Football Association, which staged the international friendly against France there last week.

★★★

Gate-takings have tumbled dramatically at the once mighty Rapid Vienna's home ground. The Austrian club can only manage slightly more than a thousand spectators a game! The slump has come with the release of the once lethal finisher Hans Krankl and the refusal to re-sign him. But with Second Division Austria Salzburg, Krankl averages 5,000 per match!

★★★

Dutch striker Eric Willaarts has rejoined Utrecht after an unhappy 18 months in West Germany with Borussia Moenchengladbach. Willaarts, 27, scored 25 goals for Utrecht in 1986/87, but couldn't adapt to the Bundesliga.

★★★

Verona's Argentine signing Claudio Pablo Caniggia is out for at least three months after fracturing his left shin against Bologna.

A former patron of the now-defunct North American Soccer League, Milan Mandaric, ex-owner of the San Jose Earthquakes, is keen to buy into French First Division club, FC Toulouse. The Yugoslav-born Mandaric is a wealthy industrialist in northern California.

★★★

Portugal beat Greece 2-1 in a friendly international in Athens. Nunez and Paneira scored for the winners, Borbokis for the locals.

★★★

Belgium's international goalkeeper, Michel Preud'homme, who plays for FC Mechelen, is likely to be transferred either to Real Madrid or FC Porto next season.

★★★

"Adi" Prokop, East Germany's greatest referee of all-time has put his whistle away after a 31-year career.

In 1976, he followed the famous Rudi Glockner onto the FIFA list. He has refereed 38 full internationals and 60 European cup games.

★★★

Malcolm Allison has returned to Portugal to take over First Division Farense. Allison, whose former clubs include Mancester City, Crystal Palace and Sporting Lisbon, has been out of football since being fired by another Portuguese club, Setubal, last May. Allison replaces Jose Augusto at Farense.

★★★

Crowds are also down in Swizerland where the average per First Division game is only 6,910, compared to 7,420 last season — a 7% drop.

Xamax Neuchatel have the best attendances, averaging 9,490 per home-and-away fixtures.

★★★

Ronald Koeman joins Barcelona

RONALD Koeman, PSV Eindhoven's Dutch international libero, has signed a four-year contract with Barcelona.

The 25-year-old Eindhoven captain will join the Johan Cruyff-coached Spanish team on July 1 at the latest.

According to the mass-circulation EL PAIS, the transfer cost Barcelona $8.5 million, and the player collected a $1 million signing-on fee.

Should PSV be eliminated by Real Madrid in the quarter-final of the European Champions' Cup next month, Koeman might join Barcelona sooner and play in the last rounds of the Spanish championship.

Koeman's was the second most expensive transfer in Barcelona history.

Diego Maradona cost them $9.5 million in 1982.

Ronald Koeman

- **Dutchman Jean-Paul Vonderburg was transferred from Hammarby to Malmo FF for $200,000 — and will make his debut for his new club when they play the Socceroos in Australia next month.**
- The goalkeeper of the Yugoslav national team, Ivkovic, has been loaned by Wiener SK, of Austria, to Belgium's RC Genk for a year.
- **Bulgaria's 1988 Player of the Year is 22-year-old Luboslav Penev, the centre-forward for CSKA. He comes from a distinguished Soccer family. His father also played for the club, and his uncle, the current CSKA coach, captained the national team.**
- Setif, of Constantine, are the new African club champions. Setif, only a Second Division club from Algeria, defeated Nigeria's Iwuannyanwu in the home-and-away final.

Cash crisis in Belfast

NORTHERN Ireland's almost certain failure to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals has financial consequences that will affect the whole of Ulster Soccer.

The demise of the British Championship in 1984 when Northern Ireland were the competition's final winners invited disaster for the Irish — and the Welsh — as they would lose much-needed revenue from their matches with England and Scotland.

Northern Ireland were able to offset that bleak prospect by virtue of qualifying for both the 1982 and 1986 World Cups and by the good fortune of being drawn with England in both their qualifying groups for the Mexico World Cup and the 1988 European Championships.

The success of the national team on the international stage also reaped monetary benefits for Northern Irish league clubs.

Each club received some $30,000 from both of Northern Ireland's trips to Spain '82 and Mexico '86.

The IFA estimate a loss of $2 million if Northern Ireland cannot overcome the enormous odds and earn a trip to Italy in 18 months time.

It was mooted that a sponsor could be induced to back the national squad but as Harry Cavan, the IFA president, observed: "It's very difficult trying to attract anyone when the team is not successful."

A one-hand grab comes off for Norwich City's keeper, Bryan Green. Charlton's Paul Williams is cut out, and Norwich ran out 2-1 winners in England.

OVERSEAS OVERVIEW

- **Flamengo's national team defender Jorginho is on the verge of signing a pre-contract with AS Roma. Flamengo will almost certainly get midfielder Andrade back as part of the deal. Both played in Australia last year.**
- The English FA agreed to a compensation payment of $800,000, spread over four years, to the *Northern Irish because of live broadcasting of* domestic cup ties.
- **Johan Cruyff has extended his one-year coaching contract with Barcelona until 1991. Cruyff will be paid at the same rate as now — $1.2 million a year — plus a cost-of-living increase to keep up with Spain's inflation rate.**
- Leo Clijsters, of Mechelen, has been voted Belgium's 1988 Player of the Year.
- **Aarhus (Denmark) striker, Frank Pingel, has joined Newcastle United for $500,000. The money came from the sale of goalkeeper Dave Beasant (ex-Wimbledon) to Chelsea. Newcastle manager Jim Smith is also interested in signing Pingel's Aarhus team-mate Bjorn Kristensen.**
- Ricky Owubokiri, the Nigerian striker who played against the Socceroos at the Olympics, has caught fire with Portugal's Benfica, scoring six goals in a recent Cup tie.
- **Soviet goalkeepr Rinat Dasaiev, now playing for FC Seville, is having problems settling down. He has conceded many "silly" goals, including fumbling a shot into his own net to present Logrones with a 1-0 win — their first in 13 matches.**
- Anderlecht coach Raymond Goethals has rejected an offer to take over France's ailing Girondins de Bordeaux.

Portuguese clamp-down

PORTUGUESE Soccer received a shot in the arm with the decision that next season, First Division teams will be allowed to register only a maximum of six foreigners and play a maximum of four of them in the league line-up at any one time.

At present there are no restrictions.

Currently there is a staggering total of 177 foreigners in the First Division, 110 of whom are Brazilians.

Indeed, no fewer than eight clubs could field a team of eleven imported players.

Now, better late than never, both federation and clubs have woken up to the damage done to the national team.

The most notable feature of the new rule is that Brazilians will be classed as foreigners.

Currently Portuguese football follows to the letter of the law the treaty which provides Brazilians with full local citizenship rights.

Youth World Cup starts in Riyadh

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE World Youth Cup, starting tomorrow (Thursday) in Saudi Arabia — and which the Young Socceroos missed by a solitary goal — should again showcase the most brilliant under-20 talent in the world.

The opening match is between Saudi Arabia and Nigeria at Riyadh and the final will be played on March 3.

The Coca-Cola-sponsored event is now rated by many observers as a more significant competition than the Olympic Soccer tournament because all nations compete on an equal footing.

Whereas the South Americans and Europeans are not allowed to field World Cup players at the Olympics, at youth level there are no such limitations.

All you have to do is field your best under 20 players, irrespective of their background, past international experience or status as professionals, are allowed to compete.

The 16 teams at the seventh Youth World Cup will have the chance to show the world that their tournament is indeed now the second most important global Soccer competition.

You only have to look at the list of current world stars who made their mark on past Youth World Cups — Diego Maradona, Ramon Diaz, Vladimir Besanov, Geovani, Silas — to underscore the value of the Youth World Cup to players, coaches, countries and clubs.

On a more modest Australian scale, you will recall that Frank Farina, Dave Mitchell, Jim Patikas, Chris Kalantzis and Oscar Crino, among others, made their mark first in the event.

The Europeans, who greeted the competition with cynicism, are slowly coming around to acknowledging its importance, particularly the eastern bloc.

Their enthusiasm, however, is far exceeded by that of the Latin Americans, who have won three of the six tournaments.

Brazil have played more games in the finals than anyone — 25 — and have won it twice.

Under coach Rene Simoes, they will again be the team to beat.

Players like Bismarck (Vasco de Gama) and Sandro (Ponte Preta) are already established First Division players and could emerge as the individual heroes of the series.

But then, Brazil have such a talent for turning up new starlets that it is a prediction which could prove way off target and perhaps it could be Assis, Sergio Gil or Leonardo who emerge as the stars in Saudi Arabia.

Nigeria, third in Moscow in 1985, could be a threat, while Europe's best hopes appear to rest with the always threatening USSR and Spain.

Syria, who edged out Australia, have drawn Costa Rica, Colombia and the USSR in Group B.

As customary, the first two countires in each group will qualify for the quarter-finals, and from that stage on the tournament will be conducted on an elimination basis.

The teams have been split into the following groups:

Group A (Riyadh): Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Czechoslovakia, Portugal.

Group B (Dammam): Colombia, Costa Rica, USSR, Syria.

Group C (Taif): Norway, Iraq, Argentina, Spain.

Group D (Jeddah): East Germany, Mali, Brazil, USA.

PAST WINNERS

1977 USSR, 1979 Argentina, 1981 West Germany, 1983 Brazil, 1985 Brazil, 1987 Yugoslavia.

VAULTING TO FAME

The Soviet Union's Vladimir Besanov is one of today's world stars "discovered" at the World Youth Cup — in Tunisia, in 1977.

Parreira was first Brazilian choice

CARLOS Alberto Parreira, Saudi Arabia's Brazilian coach, revealed he had been approached to replace Carlos Alberto da Silva as national team coach of Brazil.

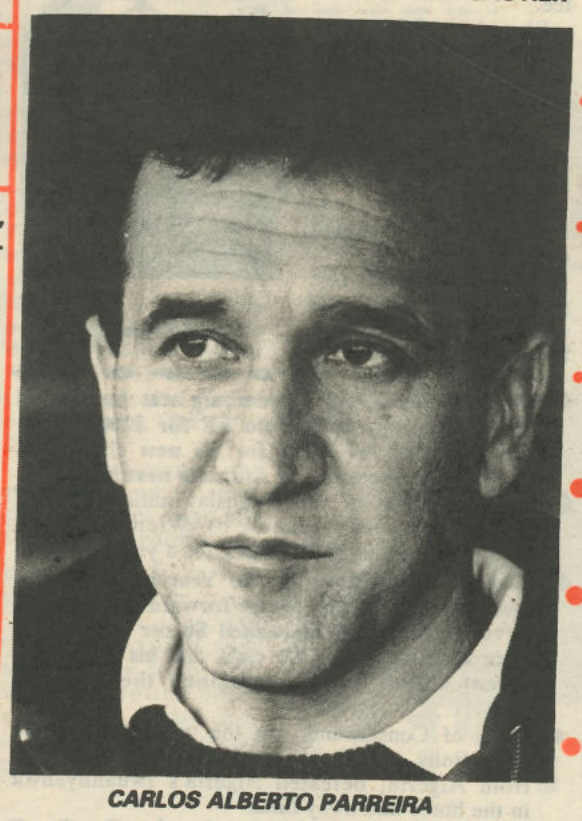
He was the first choice of new Brazilian Sports Confederation president Ricardo Texeira.

Parreira said that Texeira was so certain of his election that he contacted him a week before all the votes were in.

But there was no way the Saudi Arabians would consider releasing him in the wake of the national team's second consecutive triumph in the Asian Nations' Cup — thus the job was offered to, and accepted by, Sebastiao Lazarone, who was also Saudi-based.

Lazarone, 38, bought his contract back from the Al Ahly club of Jeddah.

— LOU GAUTIER



CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

Emilio Butragueno in a refective mood in the Real Madrid trophy room. Is he headed to another club?

REAL RUMOURS ARE UNREAL!

SOCCER-crazy Madrid, the Spanish capital, is awash with rumours concerning its beloved Real.

If all the rumours were to be believed then, at the end of the season . . .

* Coach Leo Beenhakker will be going to Milan or Manchester United;

* Star striker Emilio Butragueno will be going to Italy or Barcelona;

* Right back Chendo will be going to Barcelona;

* Midfielder Michel will be following Beenhakker to Milan, where he will replace Dutchman Frank Rijkaard; and

* Controversial Bernd Schuster will be sold back to West Germany unless Espanol Barcelona can back their rumoured 'offer' with a lot more money.

Rush on tickets

FANS snapped up more than 60,000 books of tickets for the 1990 World Cup finals in the first week tickets went on sale in Italy.

The local World Cup organising committee, and the Italian bank which is handling sales, said 60,460 of the 170,000 books of tickets available to the Italian public were sold.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- **West German Frank Ordenewitz is the first individual winner of FIFA's "Fair Play" prize. In a league match, with Werder Bremen, last year he admitted handling the ball and a penalty was awarded — which FC Koln converted to win the match.**
- Olympakos will have to pay some $400,000 for the 10,000 seats destroyed by their outraged fans at the Athens Olympic Stadium during the match against OFL. A fire also broke out and eleven people were injured in clashes between fans and police, with eight arrests being made.
- **Crowds are also mediocre in the Czechslovakian First Division. The first half of the competition attracted 577,061 paying spectators, for an average attendance of 5,642 per game.**
- Soviet star Vladimir Besanov will also play in the West next season. He is set to join a Swiss club. And Igor Belanov is attracting French interest.
- **Al Rashead, of Iraq, won the Asian club championship. Guangdon (China) came second, Kazma (Kuwait) third and Mohan (India) fourth.**
- Glory days are back for the legendary Hajduk Split. After an unhappy experience with Bulgarian coach Ivan Vutsor, they decided to rely on their former players. Jurica Jerkovic is now technical director with former top goalscorer Pero Nadoveza back as team manager. Also, Ivan Gudelj is training again after a three-year absence following hepatitis.
- **Mechelen, of Belgium, defeated Ajax Amsterdam 3-0 in the first leg of the European Super Cup between 1987/88 winners of the Champions' and Cup-Winners' Cups.**
- Cobreloa defeated Colo Colo 1-0 to win their fourth Chilean Championship. Universidad de Chile, once a major Soccer power, have been relegated to Division II.
- **Jorge Habegger, Bolivia's Argentine-born national team coach, is threatening to resign because the clubs are not releasing players for national team training.**
- Bob Gansler has been appoined coach of the USA World Cup team, replacing Lothar Osiander, who stood down when the USSF decided the job had to be a full-time appointment.
- **Dutch club Willem II sold striker Willem van der Ark to Scotland's Aberdeen for $500,000 and signed David Logie from Groningen for $100,000 as a replacement.**
- The long arm of the law finally caught up with 11 Italian hooligans who were jailed by a court in Florence for periods between eight months and three years following trouble before and after a game against AS Roma on December 18, 1983. Two Sampdoria fans were also jailed — for 12 months — for similar offences.
- **Vladimir Bezverkhy, president of Dynamo Kiev, has announced that his club is now autonomously professional.**
- Real Madrid are said to be very interested in signing Brazilian ace Careca when his contract with Napoli expires at the end of the season.
- **Yet another top player sustained a serious injury playing indoor Soccer. Latest victim is Bayern Munich forward Roland Wohlfarth, who injured his foot and will miss the UEFA Cup quarter-final tie against Hearts of Midlothian.**
- Israel's High Court of Justice ordered the Interior Ministry to approve construction of a controversial stadium in Jerusalem which had been on the drawing boards since 1974 because of Orthodox Jewish opposition.
- **The scale of the scandal involving the banker and ex-Olympiakos president George Koskotas increased following allegations by a newly-resigned Defence Equipment Minister, Stathis Yiotas, of bank fraud involving arms deal corruption.**
- Japan held Iran to a 2-2 draw in Teheran in the first international match played in Iran since FIFA lifted its ban on Iran and Iraq after the end of the murderous Iran-Iraqi war. The game was watched by 65,000 spectators, who booed their team off the field.
- **Ramon Mifflin, former Peruvian 1970 World Cup star, is the subject of an extradition application by Peru, after being arrested for suspected drug-running in Chile.**
- While the rest of Europe is clamping down on foreign players, Swiss clubs next season will be allowed to field five non-residents in the First and Second Divisions.
- **Diego Maradona, Ruud Gullit and Harald Schumacher, amongst others, have agreed to take part in Uli Stielike's testimonial match in Neuchatel on May 23. The former German libero's current — and last — club, Xamax, will pay a "World XI" for the gala occasion.**
- Vasco de Gama's Geovani, seen in Australia during the Bicentennial Gold Cup, has been voted Brazilian Soccer Player of the Year for 1988.